MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 NOVEMBER 1982

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activities -- Iraqi forces launched a "major offensive" in the Maysan area on 22 November, killing at least 945 Iranians, a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. An Iraqi military commander told INA that Iranian forces were driven away from vital heights in the Maysan area. During clashes on 21-22 November 49 Iranians were killed in the northern and central operational zones as well as in the region east of Basra, INA reported.

Tehran radio's Arabic service cited Lloyds Insurance Company as saying that Iraq's claim that five Iranian oil tankers were recently sunk was "totally groundless." Two of the vessels were Iranian, one was Indian and two were believed to have Greek registry, INA reported citing Lloyds.

Meeting on War -- Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni recently summoned prominent religious, military and government leaders to a "secret" meeting in Tehran to disucss the war, the London-based AL-MAJALLAH magazine reported. Khomeyni reportedly told the group that all peace efforts "must stop," that the Iraqi regime "must go. If they do not go, we will." Khomeyni spoke with "extreme anger" about the "doves" in the Iranian leadership who advocate negotiating with Iraq and issued a ruling that it is a "sacred religious duty" to defeat Iraq. The magazine stated that because of differences of opinion on the war at the "highest level" in Iran, Khomeyni sought approval for his ruling from five ayatollahs; however, they refused to give their support. This refusal is the reason Iranian President Khamene'i subsequently announced that Khomeyni's ruling was not a call for a jihad.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algiers Meeting -- Saudi King Fahd, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a tripartite meeting in Algiers, SPA reported. "Informed sources" cited by Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that the talks centered on the accomplishments and future moves of the Arab seven-member committee established by the Fes summit to explain the Arab peace plan to UN Security Council member states. The talks also dealt with the PLO and the Iran-Iraq war, the radio said. The three leaders agreed on the need to continue the military training of PLO fighters and to supply them with weapons, "giving special attention to the political role of the PLO." It was also agreed that Algeria and the PLO should attempt to persuade the Iranian leaders to agree to negotiate an end to the dispute with Iraq.

PFLP Opposition to Fes Committee -- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Damascus newspaper called on Syria, Algeria and the PLO to withdraw from the Arab seven-member committee to "seek more practical ways to confront suspicious proposals and reject the committee's aims," KUNA reported.

PLO

Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Khalid al-Fahum announced that the PLO Central Council will meet in Damascus on 25 November, Radio Monte Carlo revealed. PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat is expected to participate in the session, which will set the date and venue for the PNC meeting, the radio added.

Lebanon

Military, Security Situation -- The Syrians and Palestinians have declared a general alert in the Al-Biqa' Valley and the Syrian command has deployed a new missile system in the Al-Masna' area, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. However, IDF radio subsequently announced that Lebanese radio reports of new Syrian missile deployments in Lebanon have not been verified. Meanwhile, masked gunmen attempted to seize control of the Lebanese Army barracks in Ba'labakk but were driven off after a 2-hour battle, according to an army command statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Three of the attackers were killed and two Lebanese soldiers were wounded, the statement said. The Voice of Lebanon reported that the attackers were Iranian Revolution guards and affiliated local groups and said they were assisted by "the forces responsible for security in the Ba'labakk area."

Alleged Killing of Palestinians -- Israeli military sources believe that the Lebanese Army killed 1,200 Palestinians who disappeared during the army's recent security operations in Beirut, the Tel Aviv daily MA'ARIV reported.

Israel

West Bank Work Permits -- Jerusalem radio and YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported that foreign lecturers in the West Bank have expressed dissatisfaction with the civilian administration's new formulation for work permit applications.

New Settlements -- The Jewish Agency's Settlement Department will shortly submit a proposal to the government for establishing 20 additional settlements in the West Bank, HA'ARETZ reported. Most of them will be located in the hilly region, "where sufficient quantities of state land can be seized," HA'ARETZ said. According to MA'ARIV, West Bank Arabs have seized and settled illegally in some areas slated for Jewish settlement.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali met with Israel's Ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason to discuss the Tabah issue and 'Ali's recent visit to Washington, MENA reported. Egypt wants the Tabah talks to be resumed soon on the technical level, MENA added. Following the session, Sason emphasized that the meeting was held at 'Ali's request and that they had discussed various international issues, including the Tabah dispute, IDF radio stated. The Israeli envoy denied he had been given details of a U.S. plan to solve the Tabah dispute and to improve Egyptian-Israeli relations, Jerusalem radio reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL TO MEET IN DAMASCUS 25 NOV

JN221704 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Damascus -- Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council, stated today that the PLO Central Council [PCC] will meet in Damascus on 25 November in the presence of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Well-informed Palestinian sources have stated that the PCC will discuss all aspects of the developments of the Palestinian issue on the Arab and international level and the situation in Lebanon.

Further Details

JN222100 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2040 GMT 22 Nov 82

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The PLO Central Council [PCC] will meet in Damascus on Thursday, 25 November. Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Damascus tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. As is known, the PCC will set the date and venue of the Palestine National Council's [PNC] meeting. Our Damascus correspondent Louis Faris had the following to say:

[Begin recording] It was officially announced here that PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has addressed invitations to the PCC members for a meeting in Damascus on Thursday evening. Yasir 'Arafat is expected to take part in this meeting and to submit a report on all the activities conducted by the PLO Executive Committee's members in the past phase. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is expected to arrive in Damascus during the next 24 or 48 hours because the PLO Executive Committee is due to meet here prior to the PCC's meeting meeting. The PCC will set the date and venue of the PNC's next session and will determine the PLO's strategy in the future phase in the military and political fields.

In a statement to our radio, Khalid al-Fahum has categorically dismissed all reports about the postponement of the PCC meeting. He also denied reports which said that President al-Asad had refrained from receiving Yasir 'Arafat when both were in Moscow, describing these reports as cheap intrigues aimed at spreading confusion and chaos. [end recording]

KHALIL AL-WAZIR CHAIRS MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

GF200710 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad, [Khalil al-Wazir] deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, chaired a meeting of the Palestinian Revolution Supreme Military Council in Damascus yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the operations room of the Palestinian Revolution forces.

Official Palestinian sources said that, during this meeting, the military mobilization and training situation of the Palestinian fighters in Lebanon and other Arab countries was discussed in detail.

PFLP ASKS PLO, SYRIA, ALGERIA TO LEAVE COMMITTEE

LD221516 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Damascus, Nov 22 (KUNA) -- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Monday called on the Palestine Liberation Organization, Syria and Algeria to withdraw from the seven-man committee mandated by the Arab League 12th summit to clarify the Arab peace proposal to the five permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council.

The three sides are members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front which also includes Libya and South Yemen.

"ATH-THAWRAH" newspaper, organ of the PFLP, said that "we disagree with the continuity of political moves by Syria, Algeria and the PLO within the seven-man committee which is bent on granting concessions to the American administration.

"Therefore," it added, "we call on Syria, Algeria and the PLO to withdraw from the committee and seek more practical ways to confront suspicious proposals and reject the committee's aims.

KHALID AL-HASAN ON ISSUES FACING PALESTINIANS

JN192111 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Telephone interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, carried in the "It Happened Tomorrow" program -- date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Brother Khalid, you are following the movements of the seven-member committee delegation. You travel with it and try to gather information about its moves. You know that what has been said and is still being said revolves around the synchronized recognition and, as a preparatory step, the recognition of the international resolutions, including UN Resolution 242. Yasir 'Arafat was not clear in this regard and was satisfied with saying that what is being said in public does not necessarily and always reflect the reality. It is understood from what is being said in public that the PLO has not yet confronted the stage of recognition. When will the PLO confront this stage?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the situation is proceeding rapidly. The U.S. stand still clings to the literal interpretation of Resolution 242 and the recognition of Israel. It seems that the general Arab stream is about to yield to the U.S. stand. However, I would like to stress that the seven-member committee's talks have not yet dealt with the issue of recognition. In their talks, the seven-member committee negotiators did not focus on the issue of recognition but the Fes summit resolutions as they were outlined by King Hassan II and King Husayn. You know that the resolutions call for ending the state of belligerency and, later on, starting the negotiations to bring about the withdrawal [words indistinct]. It is up to each state to decide what follows this because the issue of recognition can be decided only by a sovereign side.

In light of the results of the seven-member committee meetings, the international, U.S. and Arab stands, the Palestinians will discuss the entire issue at the coming meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC] which will determine its stands regarding all these issues.

[Question] Do you think that the PNC will adopt a stand in favor of the exchanged recognitions or, maybe, the pre-conditioned recognitions?

[Answer] I believe that the PNC will not make a decision on the issue of recognition because, as we said, the PLO cannot make a decision regarding an issue pertaining to sovereignty. The PLO's duty is to regain the sovereignty, not to practice it. Such issues can be discussed either after the establishment of the state or if a provisional government is formed.

[Question] There are certain voices in the West Bank urging the PLO to recognize Israel and maybe to link, even temporarily, the Palestinian fate with Jordan.

[Answer] There is no disagreement on the Jordanian-Palestinian fate. You know that very successful talks were held between His Majesty King Husayn and Brother Yasir 'Arafat in this regard. It has become clear that the future relationship will be a confederation. Furthermore, some technical committees will be formed this week, I believe, to discuss the details and prepare for implementation of this matter at the appropriate time. However, all our coordination and other relations should come within the framework of the objective: the confederation.

As for our brothers inside the occupied land, they are the ones who suffer most from the Israeli occupation and the consequences of the Israeli settlements which have now spread over 60 percent of the land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Our brothers there are very concerned over this issue and they say that all efforts must be made through all means in order to achieve the Israeli withdrawal from the land occupied in 1967. The stand of the brothers inside the occupied land will be discussed at the PNC because, as I have learned, a document has been sent or is about to be sent to Brother Yasir 'Arafat from the brothers inside the homeland.

[Question] What do you think of the formation of a provisional Palestinian government-in-exile?

[Answer] I am personally in favor of the formation of a provisional government and not a government-in-exile because there is a big difference between the two. But there is no need to explain it now. However, there has not yet been a decision to form such a government. This will also be discussed at the PNC.

[Question] So we can say that the PNC will discuss two basic issues: the recognition [of Israel] and the formation of a provisional Palestinian government?

[Answer] Let me say that the PNC will discuss two basic issues, the assessment of the current political stage and the requirements of all the parties concerned, including the European, U.S., Soviet and Arab stands as well as that of our brothers inside the occupied land so we can finally reach a result regarding the working plan we have to adopt. The issue of recognition will not be discussed as a subject which requires a yes or no answer. Such subjects cannot be discussed in this manner. The PNC will discuss the entire situation, the general stream and the powers to be given to the PLO Executive Committee in this regard.

[Question] Do you have any idea about the venue of the PNC meeting?

[Answer] Brother Yasir 'Arafat has received invitations to hold the meeting in Jordan, the YAR, Algeria, Morocco and Tunis. The venue has not been decided yet. I believe that it will be decided during a joint meeting of the PLO Central Council, the PNC Bureau and the PLO Executive Committee. Most likely it will be in Algeria.

KHALID AL-HASAN PRAISES RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

LD191258 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Paris, Nov 19 (KUNA) -- Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political advisor, Khalid al-Hasan has praised France's stand from the Palestinian question but pointed out two differing views between the Arab and French sides, and warned against the Israeli opposition Labour Party's rise to power. In an exclusive interview with KUNA, Al-Hasan said here Friday that the talks held by the Arab seven-man committee with French officials last Tuesday were successful and that the French stand on the issue was much advanced than other European attitudes.

Led by King Husayn of Jordan, the Arab committee arrived here last Tuesday for talks with President Francois Mitterrand on the Arab peace plan adopted by the Fes summit as part of an Arab diplomatic drive in five major world capitals. The committee has earlier visited Washington, led by King Hassan of Morocco, for the same purpose.

"The committee's talks", Khalid al-Hasan, code-named Abu as-Sa'id, stated "had been successful in explaining the Fes Arab summit resolutions to the French side and in answering the latter's queries".

"It is known that the French stance is much advanced than other European stands since France has expressly supported the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state, he added.

Asserting that no main differences were noted during the Arab-French talks, Al-Hasan however stated that two issues remained unresolved with the French officials, namely either an unequivocal and expressed recognition of Israel on the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the future relationship between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan.

"Both sides," Abu as-Sa'id reported, "reached no conclusion on the issue of Israel's recognition, pressed by France. The Arab side explained that commitment to the Fes summit was the focus and that the resolutions adopted by the summit guarantee an end to the state of war in return for restoration of occupied Arab territories, with each Arab state having at the end the option to take its individual stand within its sovereign rights".

On the other issue of Jordan-PLO linkage, King Husayn has been very clear, he stated, adding "the Jordanian monarch has pointed out that the question was the only concern of the two parties.

However King Husayn told the French side that Jordanian-Palestinian talks in this respect promised an early agreement which will realize the general interest of both parties," the Palestinian official said.

Asked whether the European stance is positively developing in favour of the Palestinian cause, the official who took part in the Arab seven-man committee's activities in Paris said that generally speaking the trend was encouraging."

"But the attitude of West Germany has lately worsened," he noted, "particularly after the recent change in the government and the election of Helmut Kohl as chancellor."

"As for the stance of the French Socialist Party, Al-Hasan said, "it is preplexing and incompatible with that shown by President Mitterrand. While the latter maintains a positive attitude from the Palestinian question, that party has fallen back especially during meetings of the Socialist International.

"The Socialist Party together with the ruling party has opposed a freeze on the Israeli Labour Party's membership and the French Socialists had even challenged PLO admission into the organization."

"Politically speaking, the European trend is still far from being satisfactory", he asserted.

The Palestinian leader stated that there was no significant change in France's Mideast policy, which since the time of late President de Gaulle has been moving along the same pattern.

He conceded that there is an actual, yet no radical, change in President Mitterrand's policy following his recent visit to Israel and cautioned against Mitterrand's close relationship with a number of Israeli leaders.

On Chairman 'Arafat's visit to France, Abu as-Sa'id said that France is not rejecting such a visit but has reservations on its timing. "Of late," he added, "we noticed that France has started to link 'Arafat's visit to France with a PLO recognition of Security Council Resolution 242.

It is not clear whether this recent attitude by the French Government is a principled or tactical stand because of election considerations, particularly that French municipal elections are in the offing."

Speaking on the French-Egyptian draft resolution to settle the Lebanese problem, the official said that the PLO delegate at the U.N. Security Council has supported the initiative with certain reservations. Without elaborating, he expected defeat of this draft because the U.S. will veto it, since America wants to have the upper hand in the Middle East, without the least intervention by another party. In addition, Abu as-Sa'id argued, the Franco-Egyptian draft expressly advocates the right of Palestinian self-determination, repeatedly rejected by the U.S.

Aware of America's position, France has suspended voting by the Security Council on the draft resolution and initiated contacts on the issue with the U.S. administration, "but to my knowledge these contacts made no headway," Al-Hasan disclosed.

Commenting on predictions that Israel will not pull out of Lebanon, the Palestinian official agreed that this can be correct if the issue is left for the Israelis alone to decide. "But I think that they will pull back," he said, "gradually and over a long time.

Judging by the close relationship between Lebanon and the U.S. administration, which has pledged an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the process will be effected," he added.

On Israel's image abroad in the wake of the gruesome massacres in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, Al-Hasan noted that the Western mass media was blaming Begin's policy and mentality besides for these crimes and added that this media is claiming an improvement for the better if the Israeli Labour Party is in power. "In fact," he added, "there is no basic difference between the Labour Party and Likud, since both adopt a Zionist and expansionist policy. Tactics might differ, and what is noteworthy is that the Labour Party is more dangerous because it resorts to dual tactics compared to Begin's blunt and open aggressive attitude.

The PLO official cautioned that though European leaders may come out publicly against Israel's policy, they have not completely turned against Israel. He stated that as long as European and American interests remain unaffected and intact in the Middle East, these leaders will not be compelled to change their attitude or adopt new stands more favourable to the Arab cause.

Khalid al-Hasan concluded by charging that the events in Lebanon had created a favourable atmosphere which has been inadequately utilized by the Arab states.

MUBARAK INTERVIEWED ON NATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

NC211604 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 Nov 82

["Text" of interview given by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH -- date, place not given]

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the state of tension in Arab-Egyptian relations has ended and that there are some people who volunteer from time to time to drive a wedge in an attempt to restore the atmosphere of tension that prevailed in the past. However, we hear and know the aims of these people. When I went to Saudi Arabia to extend condolences to our brothers there on the death of the late King Khalid, I told them the same thing I have told all international quarters -- that Egypt is an Arab state. We do not want to embarrass anyone. When the brothers in the Arab world believe the time is right, they are welcome [to restore their relations with Egypt].

In an interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, the president added: One important thing is that no one will be able to restore the state of tension between us and our brothers in the Arab world. There are some who do not want Arab solidarity in order to exploit Arab differences. Our policy is not to reply to information campaigns from any source. We here at home permit the people freedom to say more than what is being said abroad. Therefore, it is better not to become tense over fabricated clamor. The tension between us and the Arab world has ended. It is up to the Arab world alone to decide when we are important to it. Other than this, everything is normal and going well.

Ahmad al-Jarallah wrote the following introduction to his interview with President Mubarak: President Husni Mubarak's features reflect that he is mentally relaxed. Everything around him is calm, despite the outside noise -- the clamor of the opposition, the clamor of accusations. Everything is quiet because Husni Mubarak thinks that every event has a limit. What is important to him is that every man goes to the grave with nothing. When a person becomes convinced of this, noise -- unless it is real -- is ineffective.

At the beginning of the interview, I told the president: There are many things in your country that need to be discussed with you. The Egyptian president's reply was direct -- that he was ready and there was nothing to hide.

The text of President Husni Mubarak's interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah, the chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, is as follows:

Question: At the beginning I asked his excellency the president: Who is behind the clamorous campaign against you from outside and why?

Answer: Had matters gone against me, I would have left the post of president of the republic. My conviction is that the coffins of the dead as they are buried are buried with empty pockets. The ones people are sad about are those who leave touches of fruitful work behind. Opportunities will not be exploited in my time. I do not favor the collection of wealth, and I do not seek prestige. I only want to safeguard the public wealth of the people, because they are more entitled to it.

Those who make hints abroad think they can bring the Egyptian political leadership to its knees to impose certain conditions on it. Let them say what they want, and we shall investigate everything they say. Facts will be put before the people of Egypt. I have said this and I will repeat it: None of my relatives will be able to exploit his influence and his new social status. The law is the law. What I told the Cabinet stands -- that is, the role of the official political machinery is to safeguard the resources of this state. The aid which we receive must be spent according to the principle of trust in every sense of the word. Other than this, everything is subject to investigation and punishment if what is said is proved correct.

Question: Mr President, what is the story behind the recent scandals about which the people are talking and which are before the socialist public prosecutor?

Answer: All this is within the framework of the fact that no one is beyond legal punishment. The information media have inflated the scandals to such an extent that foreign observers have imagined them to be unnatural matters, as if Egyptian society were administratively corrupt. This is untrue. What happened has necessitated a judicial investigation. However, all cases of administrative corruption and exploitation of influence in Egypt have thus far been limited if compared to what has been happening in other countries. Nevertheless, it is a normal process and the judiciary is the natural place for it, and the people take a natural view of it. Administrative corruption takes place in advanced countries, but it is practiced within the framework of the law. I will give you as an example the budgets that are issued by companies with extremely high administrative expenditures for the purpose of evading taxes, but the law there is aware that the companies have acted within the law and does not consider their action as administrative corruption even though it is a type of fraud. However, in Egypt, a country which is suffering from economic crises, talk about any administrative corruption, however trivial, has a psychological effect on Egyptian society, especially when the press exaggerates it. What is published here creates in foreign observers, especially those who come to Egypt as investors, a state of caution that will have a negative effect. Therefore, we must destroy the phenomenon of exploitation of influence in order to cleanse the administration of the new "Al Capone" groups. I believe this will be in the interest of all investors coming here so there will be no confusion and so the investor will not think the law is not supreme here.

Question: Mr President, do you believe As-Satat's era was one of exploitation of opportunities?

Answer: Referring 'Ismat as-Sadat to the judiciary means only one thing to me: No one is above the law, even the president of the republic. Exploitation of influence existed not only during As-Sadat's era but even in 'Abd an-Nasir's era, and it can happen in my era. Therefore, the exploitation of influence is not bound by a specific political reality. As far as I am concerned, my instructions to the government are explicit and, as I have said, I do not seek financial wealth. My role is one of president of the republic of all of Egypt in all its classes, and there is no giving preference to any one class of Egyptian society to the exclusion of the others. I shall fight exploitation even if it is practiced by a member of my family. When such a member of my family is referred to justice, I will be sad for him but I will not protect him against the state punishing him if he exploited or defrauded. We are a developing state and cannot tolerate the official body tampering with the state's funds.

Question: Mr President, there are those who interpret the publication of this kind of scandal as a coverup for political matters?

Answer: Everything is liable to be interpreted negatively or positively. The important thing is good intentions and what it really seeks: Does it seek to do harm or to find out the facts. What I want to ask, as we are investigating these offenses of exploiting influence, is what are the political issues from which we wish to distract attention? What are these politcial issues? Secrets? We have no secrets. We investigate the claims of even those who attack from abroad for political purposes, and we leave it to the people here to deal in complete freedom with the subjects they raise. For example, the subject of referring 'Ismat as-Sadat to the public prosecutor does not go beyond its being a legal action that can happen to any person, whoever he may be, who has commited an offense. We have no politcial matters to conceal.

Question: Mr President, some people speak about the Egyptian opposition as if it were playing its role in a climate of public opinion that had no experience in democracy. This might harm the course of domestic policy. What is your opinion?

Answer: This is true. They are putting forward exaggerated topics which they are inflating but which do not contain any real or accurate substance. All that has been published in the opposition newspapers has been investigated, but it is as if someone had read the Koranic verse "don't approach prayer" without completing it. This is causing confusion and arousing the people's emotions and lusts. They are speaking about the economic open-door policy from a negative point of view as if it were not the practical solution to Egypt's economic problems. All states which have closed their doors are now calling for the exchange of expertise and economic openness toward the world. True, the open-door policy has negative aspects. However, it does not have only a black side; it has other sides.

The opposition speaks about a coalition government and an overall change. Its ultimate goal is to participate in governing. The overall change they are seeking will not come about by the means they are writing about; otherwise, we would also have to accept the demands of other voices which are calling for a halt to the opposition's activities because the opposition is working in the midst of a public that needs protection lest the opposition engage in arousing the public's suppressed lusts in a country that wants to develop its production. The overall change they are speaking about might include them. Will they call for change thereafter? Therefore, although I listen to all that is said and investigate it, I hope freedom will not be exploited for purposes harmful to national security. I will not be lenient in this respect with anyone.

Question: Mr President, don't you believe that the presence of the opposition in the way it is prevalent now in Egypt might have certain political dimensions?

Answer: We attach importance to security, which is playing its role well according to advanced states' principles that aim at protecting the domestic front from any disruption. Security here is strong and is in the interest of Egypt's stability. Whatever is published by the opposition papers or quarters is investigated. Most of it is exaggerated.

The presence of a vigilant opposition poses no political dangers on the domestic level. The official machinery here immediately places the facts before the people. I believe that now the Egyptian citizen only listens to what is true, and the official machinery itself welcomes what is true. I don't deny that in the past people were eager for the kind of news published in the opposition press. However, the people's taste has changed. I am against taking any official measures against the opposition because we always say that we have nothing to hide. What they put forward might help us to feel our steps [words indistinct].

Question: Mr President, frankly speaking you [words indistinct] in your country?

Answer: Some people say the remedy for democracy is further democracy, and that the remedy for freedom is further freedom. This, of course, is good for the communities whose peoples have reached a high level of education, can distinguish between things and cannot be misled by anyone. [passage indistinct] I will not eliminate the opposition. The freedom practiced here is beyond the people's ability to assimilate. We will let freedom take its course. We have nothing to hide. However, if we feel that this principle has become a danger to national security or that it threatens the freedom of others, there is another principle which says that freedom ends when the freedom of others (?becomes threatened). Until then, there will be no measures against the opposition. Let them speak, and we will listen and investigate. The president's role is that he is the president of all. What is important is that no group should impose itself at the expense of the rights of another group.

Question: Mr President, there are those in Egypt who say: We do not understand the president. What does he have and what does he want? What is Your Excellency's response to this?

Answer: By habit, I make decisions calmly so they will be well studied and accurate. My view is that Egypt at present needs a political leadership that will concentrate on the economic issues and that will not announce to the people any decision except after having studied it carefully. It is the easiest thing for me to preoccupy the people every 6 months, or even every year, with imaginary projects that the budget cannot meet but which are popular and which politicians can exploit to bring comfort to the government for a long period. This is not in my nature and it will never be. One year has already elapsed since I assumed office. I am not satisfied with projects that have been put on paper. Before making a decision on them I make a field tour. Egypt needs to develop its production projects. Some of our factories date back to 1949 and have not been developed. The plan now is to increase production by utilizing modern technology. If some wish to understand me by having me provide opportunities to one party and not the other, such an understanding is not important to me. On the level of developing production, progress has been made and the people will see it in the next 6 months, but during the next 3 months many economic changes will take place. This decision is not motivated by a personal whim. I have been concentrating on the economic issues in long consultations, the last of which was the economic conference that was held here recently and that was attended by economists and people dealing with economic affairs. The most serious thing any political leadership faces is to announce to the people every now and then unstudied decisions that have a popular character but no real basis.

This is the easiest thing for me to do so that the people may understand me, if this is what is required. However, this is contrary to my work style. I believe the people want to see the results of one's work and how one works and not how one speaks, unless diplomacy is the art of lying.

Question: Mr President, can you explain your directives on the 5-year plan?

Answer: If you want to know the details of the 5-year plan, these are long. However, what I want to do is to concentrate on the production projects. The aid that reaches us must be turned into production development, services and housing projects. Egypt needs to develop its services, and nothing else concerns the people here. Since 1949, Egypt has had political leaderships, but what they need now are economic leaderships. This is what I am concentrating on. The factories in Egypt need to be developed. This is what I am personally following up so there will be no pressure on the balance of payments.

Question: Mr President, does this mean that President Husni Mubarak represents a specific school that has now emerged?

Answer: I am concerned with the economic issues, and I believe Egypt is in dire need of this. What are the advantages of Egypt being a power in the international arena and foreign policy when it is suffering from poverty and weakness on its domestic front? In a few months, the people will see that some means of production have been developed to produce more at less cost. However, as I have said, in the next 3 years good economic changes will take place in industry and the development of agriculture and services. I do not go along with those who say Egypt is a hopeless economic problem. Egypt is full of opportunities, but it needs strict guidance and continuity. This is what I am doing in the places of work which I visit without prior notice except for the exigencies of security in the last hours. Every official expects me to make a surprise visit, and I do not forget the directives I give to the members of the [government] departments. There are those who talk to me about raising the wages of government workers without taking into consideration the state's general budget. Of course, the (?purpose) of this is political gain for the presidency. However, I oppose this. Wages will be increased according to the increase in production. Otherwise, we will be laughing at the people and achieving popular gains at the expense of the state's general income.

Question: What does the defense minister's visit to the United States represent?

Answer: The visit is in response to an official invitation. Under the canopy of peace, we are developing the army and increasing its competence and capabilities because it is an Arab army. This is what I want our Arab brothers, particularly those in the Gulf, to understand. The ability of this army to absorb [modern equipment] is worthy of appreciation, and its weapons are no longer Soviet but diversified. Those who do not impose conditions on us have special relations with us.

Question: Mr President, what level have Arab-Egyptian relations reached?

Answer: The state of tension has ended. There are certain people who occasionally try to drive a wedge in an attempt to return the tense atmosphere that prevailed previously. We hear and know the goals of these people.

When I went to Saudi Arabia to present condolences to our brothers there on the death of the late King Khalid, may God have mercy on his soul, I told them the same thing that I say to all world circles -- that Egypt is an Arab country, that we do not want to embarrass anyone and that when the brothers in the Arab world believe that the time is right [to normalize relations with Egypt], they are welcome. The important thing is that no one will be able to restore the state of tension between us and our brothers in the Arab world. There are people who do not want Arab solidarity in order to exploit the differences. Our policy is not to answer any information campaign, from any source. We here in Egypt permit freedom to say more than what is being said abroad. Thus we will not become tense when we hear fabricated clamors. Regarding our relations with the Arab world, the tension between us and them is over and the Arab world alone will decide when we are important (?to them). Apart from that, everything is normal and proceeding well.

Question: Mr President, there are people who during the war in Lebanon expected Egypt to sever relations with Israel?

Answer: There is nothing easier than that, but what are the dimensions of such behavior? We have signed a peace agreement with Israel. There are people who wanted to exploit this opportunity to demonstrate to the world, which used to listen to the Israeli views, that the (?Arabs) do not fulfill their international agreements. We do not want this. The degree of Israeli military preparedness on the borders between Egypt and Israel was not affected during the war in Lebanon. Half of the Israeli forces are deployed on the border with Egypt, contrary to reports that Israel had withdrawn its military forces during the war in Lebanon. The war in Lebanon did not require all the Israeli military forces. The equation is known and Israel is strong. Israel will not risk leaving its border with Egypt open, although we do emphasize our respect for those who believe that solving the Middle East question can be ensured by severing (?relations) with Israel. I have withdrawn the Egyptian ambassador. I made it clear to the Israeli prime minister when he came to attend the funeral of the late president. I told him that Egypt is an Arab country, that its forces are for the Arab country, that its decision is Arab and that we have our special views of the (?Palestinian) question and ways of solving it. We have submitted this view to Israel and the United States. I adopted a stand against the distribution of Palestinians throughout the Arab world, because this meant their return to the previous state of affairs. In other words, turning the Palestinian question from one of a people and a state to one of refugees needing shelter. Since 1949, Egypt has [word indistinct] to turn the Palestinian question from one of refugees to one of a state that has a right to exist. We succeeded in this at the United Nations. For this reason, I refused to receive 9,000 Palestinians. They want to distribute the Palestinian problem to the Arab world to end the Palestinian cause, which imposes its international presence and led to the Reagan plan -- the first acceptable U.S. move toward the Palestinian question. The justifications for not severing relations with Israel are stronger than the justifications for severing them, if the goal is to serve the national Arab interests.

Question: Mr President, what is the difference between U.S. President Reagan's initiative and what emerged from the Fes conference in Morocco on the Palestinian issue?

Answer: Reagan's initiative is backed by a big state that defends and fosters it. When the Arab world rejects this initiative, together with Israel's rejection, it means that this proposed activity by a big state has been frozen without any strong justification.

Who is behind the Arab initiative that can push and defend it? Let us be frank. Will our activity measure up to the level of the U.S. activity? I say that there are positive elements in the U.S. President's initiative. It is possible to discuss its negative aspects around the negotiating table with Jordanian-Palestinian participation. The time is not suitable for rejecting the exploitation of any available chance. What will be the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 1 or 2 years from now? Are we going to start demanding after some years what we have rejected today? I agree with you that the Fes decision was an Arab decision. However, why can't we be practical as long as there is a big state behind the initiative? The Fes initiative requires a moral power and to impose this power on the parties to the dispute and on the world. Otherwise, it will be like having a car body without an engine.

Question: Mr President, what is the situation between you and Israel now?

Answer: Israel knows that dealing with me is different. I respect our agreement. Just as at Camp David they were against preconditions, so are we. They refuse talks on Tabah because they want the Egyptian ambassador to return. This is a precondition that we reject. The Camp David accord is clear, and the Israeli prime minister knows -- as I told him before -- that Egypt is an Arab state. Yes, we respect our agreement. The withdrawal of the Egyptian ambassador was the least that could be done in the face of the massacres in Lebanon.

Question: Mr President, when and for what purpose will 'Arafat visit you?

Answer: Yes, 'Arafat wants to visit Egypt, but let the visit carry with it a visualization for certain solutions that I can take with me during my visit to the United States. However, if the visit is to ask to open a radio station here or to accept the entry of Palestinians, this is out of the question, because we will not permit what happened in the past. We ourselves have stopped the radio campaigns against the Arab world. We have decided not to reply to those who carry out such activity against us. Therefore, there is no room to permit anyone to carry out radio campaigns here against anyone. As for the acceptance of Palestinians, I am against their division. I do not want the Palestinian issue to turn from the issue of a state into an issue of refugees dispersed throughout the Arab world. Even my contacts with the U.S. envoy contained the same concept. This is perhaps what has led to the U.S. initiative, which I hope will be exploited by the Arab world as a chance that can be developed at the negotiating table.

Question: Mr President, following Brezhnev's death, do you believe that Egyptian-Soviet relations will develop?

Answer: We support the exchange of diplomatic representation. The Soviet Union is a big state, but we do not support giving anyone special and distinctive relations unless it, on its part, understands our national and pan-Arab interests. We do not give this distinctive friendship to anyone. Apart from this, we are convinced that the relationship with the Soviet Union is coming, but only after it understands and appreciates our circumstances.

Question: Mr President, how and when will Iraq's war end?

Answer: It is a war that causes concern because it is a war of attrition. For Iraq, it is a military issue of defending Iraqi sovereignty.

For Iran, it is a military and political issue. If this war stops, Iran will face major domestic problems that might harm the political regime and bring about its downfall. This is why Iran is prolonging the war. The big powers are satisfied with this war of attrition because it consumes military equipment they are interested in manufacturing. The Soviet Union perhaps wants this war to continue from the angle that through it, it might penetrate the domestic front in Iran and impose the same situation it imposed in Afghanistan. The Iranian regime is adamantly insisting on conditions that cannot be implemented, including replacement of the political system in Iraq and its present leadership. Some are afraid that Iran will occupy Baghdad. Naturally, this will not happen because it would have several repercussions. Therefore, for my part, I say this is merely a war of attrition that harms both Iraq and Iran but [words indistinct] option.

Question: Mr President, some believe that Iran's larger manpower might threaten Iraq's military efforts?

Answer: This is not true. The air force can deal with manpower superiority in such a case. The Iraqi Air Force is in good shape, while the Iranian Air Force is weak.

Question: Mr President, some believe the Arabs must adopt a collective war decision. What is your opinion?

Answer: From the military standpoint, Iraq needs to do nothing more than strengthen its defense. However, there is no objection to the Arab states intensifying their world contacts. Naturally, as I said, the international arms merchant benefits from the war of attrition. There is no need for a collective war against Iran, despite the superiority of Iranian manpower. There is no remedy for this superiority, which, as we said, is the air force. We are watching the situation. We estimate that Iraq's loss is the war of attrition itself, but there is no danger to its national sovereignty.

'ALI, SASON VIEW NEED TO HASTEN TALKS ON TABAH

NC221539 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA) -- MENA has learned that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali conveyed to Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason, during his meeting with him today, Egypt's firm position regarding the need to hasten the resumption of talks on the Tabah issue on the technical level during the coming weeks in accordance with the provisions of the bilateral agreement signed on 25 April and witnessed by the United States.

It has been learned that the resumed talks will be at the level of technical and legal experts and will be attended by the United States as a third party.

It has also been learned that the conversation also dealt with the results of the discussion of this subject in Washington during 'Ali's recent visit there.

OFFICIAL DENIES IRANIAN ADVANCE ON MANDALI

JN191555 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and secretary of the central organizational office, has stated that the Iranian regime's claims of having seized Mandali or advanced toward it, have become an object of ridicule among the children in this steadfast town.

Addressing a womens delegation in Mandali yesterday, the comrade Regional Command member highly valued the Iraqi women's efforts in support of the glorious battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah and its splendid victories. He emphasized the role played by the Mandali women, adding that this role continues to be an object of pride, admiration and appreciation.

Comrade 'Abd al-Ghafur also met with Mandali citizens during which he assured himself of their general conditions. He praised their high combat preparedness and noble revolutionary zeal.

REPORTAGE ON FIGHTING WITH IRAN 22-23 NOV

Seizure of Two Towns Denied

JN221146 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA) -- An Iraqi military commander has stressed that the village of At-Tib is peaceful and that Iraqi units are stationed an adequate distance away.

The commander of the IV Army Corps, responding to Iranian claims that they had seized two Iraqi towns, one of which was At-Tib village, and a number of oilfields on the second day of fighting, said today that these claims clearly indicate the inferiority complex from which the Tehran rulers are suffering. He added that the Iranian regime's sole wish is to occupy just one Iraqi village so they may cover their wounds and shocking defeat.

The military commander called on the Tehran rulers to name the second town and its location, stressing that it exists only in their sick dreams and imagination. He asserted the Iraqi Armed Forces' readiness to sacrifice for the homeland and the nation's dignity. He also stressed the fighters' determination to expel the invading aggressors. He said: We shall not sacrifice a grain of our dear soil and Iraq's land will remain a graveyard for the invaders.

Communique No 912

JN221818 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Communique No 912 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. One day, we shall seize you with a mighty onslaught: We will indeed then exact retribution. [Koranic verse]

To achieve the targets set by the Armed Forces General Command, and with central planning, some heroic units of the IV Army Corps in the Maysan operational sector at dawn today launched a lightning, major offensive against the treacherous enemy aimed at the enemy's positions opposite our forward positions.

Armed with determination, perseverance and self-confidence to score victory over the invading aggressors, the sons of our valiant forces waged violent and fiery battles against the enemy force inside their positions after storming their fortifications and defensive lines which collapsed under the strikes of the daring and valiant soldiers of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah.

The enemy forces were forced to retreat and withdraw from the battlefield in panic and confusion, leaving behind a large number of dead and wounded and large quantities of destroyed and serviceable weapons.

After our units had attained their set targets, the enemy sent reinforcements to launch a counteroffensive against our units in the same area. These, however, were destroyed and completely wiped out.

Our daring helicopters, in accordance with a coordinated plan, offered the most splendid, effective support for our ground forces as they were executing the stages of the offensive against the enemy's positions and units.

Our helicopters also hunted down and dealt blows to the enemy remnants. They destroyed the enemy's positions and units deep inside Iranian territory inflicting grave losses in life and military equipment. Praise be to God, all of our helicopters returned safely to base after accomplishing their combat missions.

The known enemy losses amount to 945 dead; a large number of wounded; a number of enemy personnel captured; 5 tanks, 8 vehicles, 4 excavators, a number of guns of various calibers, and a number of armored personnel carriers destroyed; and quantities of medium and light weapons and various serviceable hardware seized.

Our heroic armed forces, which for over 2 years have been a solid steel barrier in the face of the evil winds coming from Qom and Tehran, and which have been relentlessly defending great Iraq and its sublime humanitarian mission as well as the Arab nation's principles and honor, will, God willing, and with the help of the zeal of the glorious Ar-Rafidayn sons, remain strong and capable of confronting the expansionist Khomeyniite aggression with further courage, sacrifice and daring. Our forces will add glory to the glories, heroism to heroisms and victory to victories. God is great and victory is ours, and death and humiliation to the charlatans in Iran and to those who support them in the trench of treason and aggression.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 November 1982

Casualties Updated

JN221826 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA) -- An Iraqi military spokesman tonight said that Iraqi Armed Forces continued last night and today their military operations against Iranian forces. He pointed out that the Iraqi forces pounded enemy concentrations opposite their positions in the northern and central operational sectors and in the region east of Basra, killing 49 and destroying 3 vehicles, 2 guns, 1 excavator, 2 infantry positions and 1 hardware stockpile.

The spokesman added that the Iranian regime today used artillery to shell Khanaqin, Basra and Zurbatiyah, causing some damage.

Iranians Driven From Heights

JN230815 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA) -- An Iraqi military commander today stressed that Iranian forces were driven away from vital Iraqi heights recently occupied in the Maysan operational sector.

The military commander told THE AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper correspondent that Iraqi forces launched a lightning offensive against enemy positions on these heights yesterday and forced the enemy to leave its positions and withdraw to the international border. He pointed out that the Iranian forces withdrew from the battlefield in a confused manner, leaving behind hundreds of their dead.

The correspondent said that fierce battles had raged in the area and added that, during their advance, Iraqi forces had crushed hundreds of the enemy troops and Khomeyni guards. He stressed that the Iraqi combatants' strong desire to expel the enemy from the recently occupied targets made them fight in a legendary manner, in which the most splendid pictures of sacrifice in defense of the homeland's dignity and honor were embodied.

Last night's Iraqi mlitary communique said that during this lightning offensive Iranian forces suffered 994 killed and a large number wounded and captured.

Sunken Tankers Listed

JN221759 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Excerpt] London, 22 Nov (INA) -- The INA bureau here today learned from Lloyds Insurance Company sources that the company has succeeded in identifying the vessels that were sunk during the Iraqi raid on Khark Island yesterday.

The sources affirmed that one of these vessles is an Indian cargo vessel named (Irguna), the second an Iranian oil tanker named (Rasilo) and the third another Iranian vessel named (Shirvan). As for the two remaining vessels, the company is expecting to receive information on them within the next 24 hours, but they are believed to be of Greek registry.

SYRIAN-ISRAELI COORDINATION ON LEBANON REPORTED

NC231050 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] High-level diplomatic sources in Beirut have divulged to the Voice of Lebanon that secret contacts took place in the past few months between Israel and Syria through Iran.

The sources stated the intelligence service of a European state has laid their hands on (?postal) secret documents that were exchanged between Tel Aviv and Damascus via Iran in an attempt to effect a kind of coordination concerning the situation in Lebanon.

These sources did not want to disclose the phases through which the contacts between the two sides had passed. However, these sources emphasized that the go-betweens were Iranian businessmen, who ensured the conclusion of arms deals between Israel and Iran by which Tel Aviv supplied Tehran with the weapons that it had seized from the Palestinians in Lebanon.

RADIO ON SYRIAN 'NEW, MODERN MISSILES' IN AL-BIQA'

NC221240 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1226 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Information available to the Voice of Lebanon says that Al-Biqa' is now the scene of tension because the Syrians and Palestinians have announced a state of general alert. The information adds that, in the past 2 days, the Syrian command introduced SAM batteries into the area. Other information has revealed that the Syrians have set up a new, modern missile weapon [system] [silahan sarukhiyan hadithan] in the Al-Masna' area.

Meanwhile, Israelis deployed in western Al-Biqa' have reinforced their positions with vehicles and men.

'SOURCES' ON WITHDRAWALS, RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NC221816 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources say partial withdrawals of the foreign armies from Lebanon will take place before Christmas. These withdrawals will include the mountain and the upper Matn and will (?be completed) by the middle of spring. The sources add that the United States will supervise the talks between Lebanon and Israel that are aimed at reaching an agreement on the arrangements -- which will be less than a peace treaty and more than an armistice agreement and will center on neighborly relations.

AL-JUMAYYIL RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

NC221236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] At 1300 today, President Amin al-Jumayyil received the charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut at the latter's request.

It has been learned that the Soviet diplomat handed President al-Jumayyil a message from the Soviet leaders conveying the congratulations of Kremlin officials to his excellency on the Independence Day anniversary, and expressing their readiness to extend all possible support to Lebanon and to the salvation process. It also expresses Soviet support for Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty.

AL-ASAD DELIVERS TRADE UNION SPEECH 20 NOV

JN202037 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1717 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening session of the 20th Congress of the Syrian General Federations of Trade Unions in Damascus -- live]

[Excerpts] Dear brothers, members of the congress, dear guests: Whenever I meet with the working class on its anniversaries, at its rallies, conferences and work places I feel the happiness that can be derived from meeting with life in its nobler form, life depicted with the colors of production and the spirit of giving, life in its constant progress and continuing development. Labor is the mainstay of life; it is the essence of life because there is no life without labor. There is no progress in life without workers.

We can be proud of what we have done in the past, both on the internal and national construction level and on the pan-Arab level. As we have said, internally the change has been immense, the work has been great and multifaceted. It has embraced all fields of life: industry, agriculture, education, trade, service and defense. On the pan-Arab level, following our great achievements in the October 1973 war, we took stands we can be proud of. We took our fraternal initiative in Lebanon, we stook steadfastly confronting the Camp David plots, we fought honorably during the Israeli invasion in Lebanon, and we were firmly committed to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights.

We shouldered the responsibilities of such stands and our readiness to continue shouldering them will never falter because we believe in sacrificing for the sake of our principles and the causes of our nation.

Brother workers, you have played a role in exposing all kinds of imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots over past years. You must remain alert and ready to deal crushing blows to all those who plot against us and harm this country's great march. These masses are determined to remain proud, daring and steadfast regardless of the cost. These masses have decided to challenge the enemies of this nation in their various shapes and forms, regardless of the cost. You must be alert in the future as you have in the past in order to deal crushing blows and teach beneficial lessons to the enemies of our country, people and nation.

As for those who plot against us, those who plot to force us to our knees and to impose surrender on our country and nation, they are all deluded because they are wasting their efforts. As in the past, so it will be in the future; they will reap one failure after another. With your efforts, you will break all the conspiratorial links. The recent link in the conspiracies against the Arab nation represented by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was no more fortunate than the previous ones, because Syria remained as it is; it does not compromise or surrender. It will remain by its stand and action, the embodiment of the pride and will of the Arab masses. This will not be affected by the ingratitude of some and the ignorance of others.

The collaborators, however, will never receive our full attention. Regarding Lebanon, brothers, perhaps I should have told the brother citizens earlier what went on there.

However, the sequence of events convinced me I should wait. Even if I am late in talking to all our citizens, I consider the message I sent to the fighters during the battles as also being addressed to all the citizens because I believe these messages embodied their interests and expressed their inner feelings. [applause] That is why I thought and envisaged that our meeting today would be an occasion to talk to all of you about what happened in Lebanon, appreciating that I should be as concise and brief as possible regarding this matter.

Brother workers and citizens, before we talk about what happened in Lebanon during the rush of events, to avoid losing our way and in order to keep our vision clear so we do not fear walking toward the unknown thus losing our way, we have to remember what we might term the stations on our march. One of these stations was the entry of our forces into Lebanon. Why did these forces enter and how? Briefly, our forces entered Lebanon to halt the grinding civil war which was destroying everything and every place in Lebanon out of a brotherly pan-Arab motive that made it incumbent upon us to do what we could to lessen the pains of our afflicted brothers in Lebanon, whether they were Lebanese or not, and out of a sense of duty that necessitated removal of the dangers that threatened those brothers as a result of this ferocious civil war.

Upon many requests, upon the urgent, persistent request of most Lebanese forces dignitaries and at the request of the legitimate Lebanese authority, we went to Lebanon to stop the civil war, to remove the dangers of that war. When the Arab summit conference was convened, it approved the presence of these forces. At Syria's request it was decided that these forces should be under the command of the Lebanese president. It was also decided that the Syrian forces should stay in Lebanon for an initial renewable 6-month period. The renewal was scheduled to be made every 6 months upon Lebanon's request. This was agreed upon by the rest of the Arabs, particularly the PLO representative. Even during the last extension of the mandate, which took place before the invasion of Lebanon, a debate ensued at the Arab League between the representatives of Lebanon and the PLO on the one hand and representatives of other Arab countries which have recently been against the renewal of [the mandate] of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon on the other.

From 1976 and until now, no Lebanese official has asked us, by hint or by statement, to withdraw from Lebanon or told us, we do not want you in Lebanon.

As I said before, for this purpose we entered and that is how we entered. But has the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon attained its objectives? I say yes. The Syrian forces halted the civil war in Lebanon immediately upon their entry. They consequently wiped out the possible dangers that could have been brought about by the civil war. They halted the civil war and preserved Lebanon's unity because partition was an inevitable overwhelming danger if the civil war had continued.

More than that, I can say that partition would not have been the gravest danger expected had the civil war continued. Other bad deeds and tragedies would have occurred, foremost among them partition, occupation, annexation and the establishment of frail agent entities. The deterrent forces achieved the objective of their entry into Lebanon.

Brothers, at any rate, political action was required, in addition to the military action which was carried out by the Arab Deterrent Forces. Political steps were also required to achieve a reconciliation between the belligerents.

Everyone is aware that such political action cannot be carried out by a military force in Lebanon. Such action to achieve reconciliation and peace in Lebanon is the responsibility of the political commands in Lebanon.

The Arab Deterrent Forces achieved security by halting the civil war. Political, party and official quarters must also exert political efforts to uproot the factors which caused the civil war in Lebanon.

Although this did not constitute a primary part of our task, we in Syria exerted every possible effort out of our commitments and duties as brothers. We held extensive intermittent contacts to motivate everyone to conduct a dialogue, with the aim of realizing national accord. This is because we believe dialogue and then accord are alone capable of extracting Lebanon from the atmosphere of civil war. We have done our utmost for the sake of accord because we believe it is the sole road that will save Lebanon from civil war. Anyone who believes there is another road is gravely mistaken.

I urge those Lebanese brothers who are fighting among themselves in some Lebanese regions to beware of the danger from Israel. Israel is aiming at all of you. Do not be the victims of its intrigues and schemes. Its covetous designs in your land, brothers, are well known and historical. Do not give it a chance to realize these designs. The opportunity could perhaps now be more suitable than at any time before for you to stand in one trench and in one position and to wage one battle together against the Israeli occupation. In so doing, you will abort Israel's plans and designs on the one hand and you will wipe out the pains of the past, unite ranks and purify hearts on the other. I believe it is a historic moment and I am hopeful you will exploit it for your benefit, for the benefit of your homeland and people and for all of us. It is a historic moment that may not last long and may not be repeated.

We, in Syria, will remain your brothers and will support you through thick and thin. Israel will never loosen the historical ties that bind us. Israel will never prevent Syria from discharging its pan-Arab duties in Lebanon and elsewhere. [applause]

The aggression began, brother workers and citizens. Israel began its invasion on 4 June with an aerial bombardment of Beirut and some other areas in Lebanon. From the first moments, we confronted the enemy. There were many dogfights between our air force and the enemy's aircraft. Ground fighting developed when the Israeli forces began to advance into Lebanon. Due to the security tasks assigned to them, our forces were deployed throughout Lebanon except in the south, that is, the area between southern Beirut and the Lebanese borders with Israel. Our forces were present in Beirut, in the north and Tripoli, in 'Akkar, in the mountains and in Al-Biqa'. One can easily and quickly judge and conclude that such a deployment was not the best for confronting an enemy army advancing en masse and in accordance with a premeditated plan. Nevertheless, our forces confronted the invading forces staunchly and solidly in all areas where they were stationed. Moreover, our forces hastened to take up positions in areas where they had not previously been stationed, as was the case on the Al-Baruk-Al-Mudayrij axis for instance. Our forces confronted the invading forces in their new positions as they had in their old positions. Fighting was fierce, hard and honorable. Our soldiers, officers and NCO's fought bravely and honorably.

Brother citizens and workers, if we should be proud of anything we should first of all be proud of what our sons in the armed forces did. [applause] I am not here to explain in detail what happened, as I have already said. I am only briefly reviewing things. If I wanted to speak in detail about what our soldiers, officers and NCO's did, I could not even then give them their full due. They were brave in the full sense of the word. They were honest and sincere in performing their duty. They were not terrified by the Israeli technological superiority in some fields, and this is no secret. They were not frightened by the superior number of Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. They did not hesitate at all. Everyone was in his position working to destroy the enemy or be martyred. [applause] They fought with a high morale. Their enthusiasm and morale did not cool even for a moment. They were strong, solid and honorable.

They thought only of the homeland and the people. They were real heroes who rose to the occasion and fulfilled their trust. This was how our officers, NCO's and men were in the battles of Al-Biqa', the mountains and Beirut. They did not give the enemy a chance to achieve strategic success in any confrontation. I said something to this effect in my statement to one of the papers a few days ago. Perhaps many of the citizens have read what I said. Our sons, the soldiers and fighters, were our effective, honorable weapon in confronting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. They will continue to be a strong, solid, decisive weapon in facing the enemies of this nation any time and any place.

Brother workers, citizens, if the enemy has harbored great hatred for us here in this country, he will harbor an even greater hatred for us after the Lebanese incidents. Therefore, we should expect many serious developments in the future and prepare to face them. I am confident this great people, these heroes of the armed forces and all of us will be in the forefront and will be even tougher, stronger and fiercer than we were in the past. We will rise to the occasion as we have at every phase of our history when we were forced to confront this treacherous enemy who covets our territory and homeland. [applause and poems in the background praising Al-Asad and attacking King Husayn and Numayri]

By such characteristics and by the confrontation methods they used, our soldiers prevented the enemy from achieving strategic success in any of their positions. I do not want to say here that we are stronger than Israel, because it is not so now, but I want to say that when we are forced to fight, we will have the qualities which will enable us to wage the battle. We will have the courage, daring and competence. When necessary, we will have the ability to steer the battle in directions contrary to those planned by the enemy. [applause]

I would also like to say that we now have the most significant, important element for deciding the battle; we have the brave, trained man who believes in his homeland, who can use his weapons and wage a protracted war and who is determined to achieve victory. [applause] We also possess modern military hardware and will obtain other modern military hardware. [applause]

We have to confine ourselves to the time limits, otherwise we would raise other issues which were recently highlighted by the Zionist, U.S. and Western media. These issues deal with armaments, the world attitude and the Soviet Union and other friends. In any case, these issues have been dealt with one way or another. We have explained our views on them at suitable times. We have explained our views on the arms possessed by the Syrian forces.

As you know, Israel and Western media and propaganda concentrated a great deal on the effective, invincible arms and military hardware of the Israel's and the ineffective Soviet arms of the Syrian fighters. This is a big lie. There is no evidence of this whatsoever. This lie did not hold water in the previous battles and will not hold water in the future battles. I said a short while ago that there is Israeli supremacy in some technological fields. They have some weapons which are better than ours. But I truly say we also have some weapons that are better than theirs.

For instance, they spoke a great deal about the Israeli Merkava tank. They said it is the best tank in the world. You will recall that at first they said they had seized T-72 tanks. We remained silent a long time without denying it. They were compelled recently, when a dispute was about to erupt between them and the Americans over this T-72 tank, that they did not have it, and that they did not seize any from Syria. The battle proved that the T-72 tank was the most efficient tank. I can say that the T-72 is the best tank in the world. In places where T-72 tanks clashed with Israeli tanks, the Israeli tanks could not resist. Actually, only one battle took place between a formation of T-72 tanks and a formation of Israeli tanks. The Israeli formation could not resist. In a 30-minute battle between the 2 formations, the Israeli formation lost 30 tanks and retreated 10 km.

What they did achieve was no miracle or the work of genius by the Israelis. True, the Israelis destroyed the Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa', but this was no surprise to Syria. The missiles had been in Syria's possession before 1973 and after Camp David. The missiles were the same as those possessed by Egypt. You know, after Camp David, all secrets in Egypt became well known to the Israelis and others. They knew everything about the missiles we had, and perhaps they had examined them thoroughly because they wanted to destroy them at the proper time. I say this did not surprise us or our friends. It was expected, because they knew everything about these missiles and were able to find weak points in them as is the case with every weapon.

Nevertheless, I said that, concerning weapons, the Israelis may be superior. But this superiority will not be the factor which decides the final battle that may be imposed on us. Another thing is that this superiority in armaments, even though in limited and narrow fields, should not be allowed to continue and will not continue.

Thus we can say that, whenever necessary, we will defend the cause of the homeland and people efficiently and with great self-confidence. Greetings to you, our sons in the armed forces, officers, NCO's and soldiers. Continue your training and continue to demonstrate your bravery and determination. Backed by this great people, remain the honest carriers of the banner in victoriously defending this beloved homeland. [applause]

Brothers, what were the decisions and the contacts which were made during the fighting in Lebanon? As I have said, the Israeli aggression began with an aerial bombardment on 4 June. On 5 June, the UN Security Council issued Resolution No 508, which called for a cease-fire. In Beirut, the PLO and the joint [Palestinian-Lebanese] Command agreed to this resolution. Aggression continued. On 6 June the UN Security Council issued Resolution No 509, which also called for a cease-fire. In Beirut, the PLO and the Joint Command accepted it, but aggression continued because Israel acted according to a plan and premeditated aims. Therefore, it did not care for resolutions issued by the Security Council or anyone else.

On the morning of Wednesday, 9 June, the U.S. President's envoy, Philip Habib, came to Damascus. He asked to see me. I received him at 2100 that day. He submitted two points: He proposed a cease-fire as of 0600 the next morning. He also asked us to remove fedayeen bases which existed among the Syrian forces' positions in the Al-Biqa' area. Regarding fedayeen operations, I learned later on or during the talks that there were one or two bases. I completely rejected the idea. When he asked me if this was too much to ask, I told him that it was not only too much, but it also was unreasonable for Syria. [applause] Regarding a cease-fire, I told him: we were not the first to open fire; it is Israel which began the war. We do not agree to a cease-fire except on the basis of a comprehensive withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. I want to say here that this dialogue took place between me and the U.S. envoy after the bombing of the Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa'. These missiles were bombed at about 1600 on that same day and the time fixed for our meeting was at 1800. He left the meeting without reaching agreement. That same night he asked to see me. I received him at 2330. He took a paper from his pocket and said: I have received a message from President Reagan. Then he began to read. In short, he said that President Reagan believed that first there should be a cease-fire and second a total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. I said: This is good, because what is important is that the Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon. But we suggest adding a third clause stating that the Israeli forces begin their withdrawal from Lebanon. But we suggest adding a third clause stating that the Israeli forces begin their withdrawal immediately after the cease-fire. He said: But Israel wants security arrangements within a 40 km area. I said that is not our responsibility. If the matter concerned us we would deny Israel any right to impose security or other measures on the lands of other states. Nevertheless, I said, this matter should be discussed with the Lebanese state. We are in Lebanon to defend it and we do not make political decisions about it on behalf of its legitimate authority.

We did not agree on this point. The time was after midnight and the new proposal needed discussion and contacts between here and Washington and between Washington and Israel. We proposed a cease-fire as of 0600. I told him: The important thing is that matters should be straightened out and we are not in a hurry. Let us explain all that concerns the cease-fire and then we will decide on a cease-fire even if we do so slowly. He left without our reaching a decision. Naturally, the fighting continued on the 2d day.

On the 2d day at a late hour, that is on Thursday, 10 June, he asked for a meeting. I received him at 1120. He said that, as a result of the discussions, we have met your proposal but with a slight modification. We will say that Israel will begin its withdrawal to a certain point immediately upon the realization of a cease-fire and we will not say to the point of 40 km [from the border]. I asked him: Will Israel stop or will it continue to withdraw? He said: It will continue. I said: Let us define the expression and put it like this: Israel will withdraw to a certain point immediately upon a cease-fire and the withdrawal should continue. He said: Let it be so. I told him: We agree because this is not a modification of my proposal, but is my own proposal. We agreed upon a cease-fire, Israel's full withdrawal from Lebanon and immediate, direct withdrawal immediately upon the realization of a cease-fire toward a certain point and the withdrawal to continue to the point of 40 km. Contacts would then take place between Israel and those to be appointed by the Lebanese authorities.

Here I recall that during my discussions with him I said that we, in Syria, do not agree on a withdrawal to the point of 40 km, because we do not want to give the impression that Israel has the right to stop at the 40 km point. We agreed on the cease-fire agreement in this form. He said that the next morning, Friday, 11 June, he would leave for Israel via Cyprus. He actually left on that day. On Friday morning, the Israelis issued a decision to cease fire at 1200. We, here, issued a short statement saying: At our meeting with the U.S. envoy, we agreed on a cease-fire based on complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. In accordance with this principled pan-Arab stand, we now agree to cease fire as of 1200. The cease-fire was first observed at 1200 on 11 June.

However, you may observe that nothing of what we had agreed upon was implemented, such as complete withdrawal or the immediate withdrawal which was to have taken place immediately upon the observation of a cease-fire. I am not here justifying, analyzing or appraising what happened. There is a day for justification, analysis and appraisal. I am only telling you what happened with all positiveness and accuracy.

I may add here that, during our last meeting with him, I told him: We adhere to the cease-fire agreement between us. It is our right and duty as two states which have reached an agreement to respect it.

On the 2d day, Israeli aircraft raided some of our troops stationed in some places around Beirut. We contacted the Americans through their embassy. We asked them: Why is Israel violating the cease-fire agreement? They said they had asked Israel and it had told them it was the Palestinians who were violating the cease-fire agreement, and the Israelis were only returning the fire. Actually, they were firing at the Syrian forces. They reopened fire on the 3d day, 13 June. We asked them again and we received the same answer. We deduced that the battle was continuing.

The fighting continued in and around Beirut. It would escalate one day and die down another. We had reinforced our forces in Beirut. At the beginning of the fighting, we reinforced the Syrian forces in Beirut with units of the special forces, the defense squads and other units upon the request of the PLO military representative during a contact he made with Syrian Chief of Staff Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi. Considering our technical, military and political situation we decided that if Israel wanted to confine the battle to Beirut then we would do the same. There were a few exceptions, as you know, when battles occasionally erupted in the Al-Biqa' and the mountain region.

The Syrian forces were given strict, clear orders: Defend Beirut alongside your Palestinian and Lebanese brothers to the last man. The commander of these forces replied with a cable which was published in newspapers and broadcast -- and I assume you have read it in the newspapers and heard it -- the gist of which was that his fighters enjoyed great morale, would carry out orders and not allow the enemy to pass through. The following days confirmed that the officers, soldiers and NCO's in these formations performed their tasks magnificently, as everyone admitted. When the Israeli forces arrived at and besieged Beirut, they warned these Syrian forces and demanded that they withdraw from Beirut. This warning was rejected.

Shortly thereafter, in his capacity as commander of the deterrent forces -- and as I said a short while ago, according to Arab summit resolutions, the deterrent forces were under the command of the Lebanese president and he had the right to move them from one place to another -- and in order to avoid the destruction and ruination of Beirut, former President Ilyas Sarkis said he wanted to restation the Syrian forces, officially called the Arab Deterrent Force, to a place other than Beirut -- the Al-Biqa' area. I told him I wished he would not do that and that he would delay adopting such a decision because it was not wise to leave Israel to single out the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters alone. That was the situation. We did not allow anyone to discuss the withdrawal of these forces and we refused to link their withdrawal to any agreements which were taking place between all the negotiators in the Lebanese arena.

When an agreement was reached between the PLO and the other sides, once again the Lebanese authority requested redeployment of the Syrian forces to the Al-Biqa'. Only then we agreed to transfer the forces from Beirut to the Al-Biqa'. When an agreement was reached through the Lebanese Government and the U.S. mediator on evacuation of the Palestinian forces from Beirut, and when President Sarkis again asked for the Syrian forces to be transferred to the Al-Biqa', we had no reason to reject that request. Thus these forces were transferred from Beirut to the Al-Biqa' after having enabled Beirut to stand fast throughout the fighting. The cooperation among the Syrian forces, the Palestine Liberation Army, the fighters of the Palestinian Revolution, the fighters of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Amal forces helped Beirut to stand fast magnificently throughout the fighting. In addition to that, the presence of the Syrian forces in other Lebanese areas also helped because Israel could not ignore them lest they decide to enter Beirut alongside the Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese fighters. With the direct and indirect assistance of all of these factors, Beirut was able to stand fast.

Brothers, of course it may be said that Israel has achieved a political success in Beirut. I do not want to discuss this matter here, but I would like to explain that Syria was not a party to any contacts or negotiations which took place in Beirut or concerning Beirut. We had no role and nothing to do with all the contacts and negotiations which took place among the various parties in Beirut. As a matter of fact, we did not know what was going on. The overwhelming majority of our Palestinian leaders are in Damascus and they know this. As a matter of fact, we discussed this matter with them after their arrival in Damascus. We were not being informed of anything. Our opinion was not considered. We did not know and we were not informed of what was going on there. We used to hear about some of these contacts very late and they used to reach us through channels other than the competent leaderships in Beirut. In Beirut, we were fighters not politicians. In other words, we were standing by and fighting alongside our brave Palestinian and Lebanese brothers. As for their contacts and negotiations, we had no opinion on them and we did not know of them at the time.

I am not saying this to take anybody to task. This is not important now. I am only saying this to describe the reality and to state the facts so there will be no confusion. At any rate, brothers, we fought in Beirut and Lebanon, confronted the Zionist invasion and fought Israel honorably. When necessary, we will fight at any time in defense of the cause and our principles. [applause] We fought in defense of Lebanon and Palestine. We fought in defense of Syria and the Arab nation. We sustained losses and we inflicted losses on the enemy. We have paid and we will pay the dues of Arab honor without waiting for anyone's praises or thanks. [applause]

Brothers, Israel wants to expand limitlessly in our Arab homeland and to impose complete hegemony over it. We have no choice but to be ready, watchful and to prepare all that is necessary to face invasion and aggression, achieve the liberation of our occupied territories and regain the rights which have been usurped by the enemy for years and are still being usurped.

Brothers, the Arab nation is currently passing through a phase in which it needs real Arab solidarity based on the confrontation of hostile plans. You have seen that I did not speak about the Arab nation, the Arab states and the various stands. This is because we still need solidarity, but it should be real solidarity based on clear, firm and decisive stands in confronting the Israeli aggression and defining the methods of this confrontation.

It also needs to abide by certain principles on which compromise would only lead to the kind of surrender others want to force on our nation.

Obscure slogans and names must not deceive us. We must only consider the substance and call a spade a spade. The Arab nation is unanimous in saying that what they called peace at Camp David is no more than the surrender of the Arab side which signed the Camp David accords. It was a clear plot against the Palestine question to liquidate it, and a plan to impose Israeli control over the region. A large-scale deception campaign is going on, brothers. Under the slogan of rationalism and peace, they want to drag us into positions of surrender. Under the slogan that the United States is with Israel and therefore Israel cannot be faced or defeated, they want us to despair and accept anything.

We, however, must realize that the issues of nations can not be solved in a short period of time. It is inadmissible for anyone to imagine that the settlement of such issues can take place overnight, irrespective of the kind of settlement. We proceed from this perspective, and that is why I say they will never be able to drag us into capitulatory positions or into other positions we absolutely reject. Peace is something which you make, and capitulation is something which you deter. [applause]

We now see attempts to drag the Arab nation into granting concessions under the pretext of peace. According to these attempts, the Arabs are supposed to concede their rights even before the negotiations have taken place, so that when the talks take place there will be more concessions and complete surrender. The PLO is asked to declare its recognition of Israel and to accept autonomy as the basis of negotiations. The Arab states are asked to declare their recognition of Israel and sit together with it at the negotiating table. Yet, Israel is not asked to give anything in return other than its agreement to negotiate and, consequently, dictate its terms to the Arabs.

We must ask the United States, which is asking all this, why it is always playing the role of a defense attorney for Israel, sharing every Israeli wish, disregarding or even defending every Israeli aggression and impeding every effort that does not please Israel, even if this effort is sincere and is aimed at achieving peace. We cannot understand why Israel's security preoccupies the U.S. administration to such an extent, particularly since the world at large has come to understand that Israel is the source threatening the security of this region and that of the states in this region, whereas the security of the Arab states, land and fate receive no attention from the United States.

We cannot understand why the United States is ignoring the UN resolutions although the United States itself voted in favor of them. Is it only because Israel has rejected them? We also cannot understand why the United States is adhering to one single resolution or two resolutions or to every provision of these resolutions that pleases Israel. What is the secret behind the U.S. rejection of imposing sanctions on Israel, which has invaded Lebanon, an independent, sovereign UN member state? Israel has attacked Lebanon's cities, towns and villages, killed its people and committed atrocities and massacres there, although the United States is talking about human rights and is opposing the acquisition of land by force.

Israel, in its invasion of Lebanon, relied on U.S. military and political aid. It has been noted from the statements of some U.S. officials and from articles published in some U.S. newspapers that the United States had advance knowledge of Lebanon's invasion. Through its invasion, Israel has exploited the situation created by Camp David and the situation created by the unjust war the Iraqi regime launched against Iran. Israel also exploited the animosity of some Arab regimes against Syria -- an animosity that went so far as to plot against it.

During the invasion of Lebanon, our armed forces splendidly and honorably fought against the invading forces. They fought with valor in every place they were positioned. We, our people and the masses of our nation know that Israel failed to achieve the objectives of its invasion of Lebanon, thanks to the heroism of the Syrian forces and the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters, but the vile attempts to obliterate the real sacrifices of our forces against the invaders can only be met by our contempt.

It must not forget that foremost among the objectives of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was to render the Arab nation desperate and to mislead the Arab masses that a strong Israel was capable of achieving all it wishes, that there is no use in resisting its aggression, and that we must succumb to these wishes. This is an Israeli attempt to regain the image which was destroyed by the October war. Israel wanted to avenge its losses in the October war. Begin himself admitted that one of the invasion's objectives was to eliminate the shock that struck the Israelis during the October war.

The invasion of Lebanon frustrated what Begin and his clique had planned. The Arabs' achievements in the October war scored by the blood of our martyrs will remain despite the will of the plotters. Israel is an aggressive force that has invaded Lebanon, is trying to partition it and is working to incite sectarian seditions there, as is the case in the Ash-Shuf. Israel is trying to attain its covetous designs in Lebanon's land and waters and to wreck its economy and control it.

We, brothers, do not want anything from Lebanon and we have no ambitions there. As the whole world knows, we went to Lebanon in response to several calls for help, upon the request of Lebanon's legitimate authority and according to an Arab decision. We went to Lebanon to stop the civil war which was raging and spreading throughout Lebanon. We stopped that war. We always supported the unity of Lebanon -- land and people. We exerted strenuous efforts to restore normal life to it and to achieve national accord among the various factions of its people. We repeatedly announced our readiness to leave Lebanon whenever our brothers there felt they did not need our help. Today we assert that as soon as the Israeli invading forces withdraw from Lebanon, there will be no problem about our forces. It should be understood that the Israeli withdrawal should not take place by imposing conditions on Lebanon which undermine its sovereignty and freedom. We were always with Lebanon and will always remain with it; Syria and Lebanon are fraternal countries. [applause]

Brother members of the congress, Syria will remain -- as it has been known by the Arab nation -- a steadfast citadel in confronting current and future challenges as well as present threats and dangers. Our steadfastness depends first on our potential, which we must continuously develop and consolidate. Our steadfastness also depends on the solidity of our internal front, which will remain impregnable and difficult for all those harboring evil intentions toward it. The working class has a large, important role in this steadfastness. In addition to our potential, we are confident the Arab masses will support our efforts and struggle against aggression on Arab lands and rights. We also have confidence in the support extended by friends throughout the world and by the socialist states, headed by the Soviet Union -- the friendly state -- [applause] the nonaligned states and the friendly states in Asia, Africa and the Islamic group. Syria will also continue to support the liberation movements and peoples struggling for their freedom because we stand by the side of the forces of progress and liberation and because we and these peoples and movements have a joint struggle. The strong ties you are establishing -- brother workers -- with your brothers and comrades, the workers of the Arab homeland and world at large, are a mainstay for our country's steadfastness. Continue to bolster and expand the sphere of these ties.

Brother congress members, as I have said, the report presented to you is rich in content and full of subjects which deserve your attention and are worthy of objective, responsible discussion. I hope you will discuss it with a great sense of responsibility, sublime national spirit and enlightened awareness of priorities, as is customary of our working class and its trade union organization. I hope you will draw conclusions and adopt decisions which will add a new chapter of glorious work and honorable struggle to the history of the Syrian General Federations of Trade Unions.

Finally, I greet you again and congratulate the trade unionists who won the elections. I also welcome your congress' guests and extend, through you, greetings of love and appreciation to all Syrian workers.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

KHADDAM RECEIVES HABIB, DRAPER 23 NOVEMBER

JN230926 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received U.S. envoy Philip Habib and Deputy Assistant Secretary Morris Draper in Damascus this morning.

Habib arrived in Damascus this morning.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR LONDON

JN201438 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi left Damascus for London this afternoon on an official visit to Great Britain. He is leading a People's Assembly delegation that includes Dr Muhsin Bilal, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; Dr 'Ala' ad-Din 'Abidin, People's Assembly member; and Nasir Qaddur, deputy foreign minister. The visit is in response to an invitation by George Thomas, speaker of the British House of Commons. The visit will include meetings and discussions with several British officials at the parliamentary, governmental and party levels.

NO VERIFICATION OF SYRIAN SAM'S IN LEBANON

TA230711 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] There is no verification of the Beirut radio reports that the Syrians have brought two SAM-6 batteries into the Al-Biqa'. This was stated by military sources to our correspondent Hayim Ravya. About 2 weeks ago, Beirut radio reported an artillery exchange between the Syrians and the IDF. These reports were also groundless.

Our correspondent notes that since the Lebanon war, the Lebanese radio stations have occasionally reported missile batteries being brought into Lebanon, but until now these reports have not been verified. Israel has warned Syria that it will not agree to the basing of missiles in Lebanon.

'POLITICAL SOURCES' ASSESS HABIB PROPOSALS

TA222013 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] The special U.S. envoy for the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, Philip Habib, will arrive in Israel on Wednesday [24 November] and will meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the foreign minister. Our political correspondent cites political sources as assessing today that Habib will present an inflexible Syrian position in Jerusalem that will serve as an opening position for the negotiations. Our correspondent adds that Begin will return to work tomorrow morning, at his office, and that he will meet with former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. On Thursday, he will meet with Philip Habib.

HABIB TO BRING PLAN FOR ASH-SHUF WITHDRAWAL

TA230902 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0625 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] U.S. mediator Habib will bring, today or tomorrow, a Lebanese demand that the IDF withdraw from the Ash-Shuf mountain area even before the beginning of the negotiations for a general withdrawal. Meanwhile, in the Al-Biqa', hundreds of Iranian soldiers stationed there continue to riot and attack Lebanese targets in the Lebanese town of Ba'labakk, which is in the Syrian area. Our Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor reports:

[Begin recording] Special envoy Philip Habib was careful in the last few days to meet with the Druze and Phalangist leaders fighting in the Ash-Shuf mountains. All of them -- that is, Pierre al-Jumayyil, Walid Junblatt and the Druze Arsalan family -- demanded an immediate Israel withdrawal from the mountains. It seems that, considering these demands, the mediator has formulated a deal that he will try to sell in his upcoming visit here. This deal might even appeal, in the United States' opinion, to the Israelis.

According to the plan, the IDF will leave the Ash-Shuf mountains; the Lebanese Army will come in its stead, thus relieving Israel of responsibility for the fate of the residents and the prevention of internal fighting between the Druze and the Christian Phalangists. Lebanon, of course, will welcome such a deal, as it will enable the central government of Beirut to extend its actual areas of sovereignty.

In Beirut, it is hoped that the solution of the Ash-Shuf problem and the IDF's withdrawal from there -- similar to the IDF's immediate withdrawal from West Beirut -- will oil the negotiation wheels for the IDF's total withdrawal, wheels which are now somewhat rusted.

Political sources in the Lebanese capital report that Habib might also have to handle the disturbing Iranian presence in the town of Ba'labakk, which is under Syrian control, in the Al-Biqa'.

Shouting Death to Amin al-Jumayyil, the 300 Iranian volunteers, who actually came to Lebanon to fight with the terrorists against Israel, again attacked Lebanese targets. This time their target was a Lebanese Army camp.

The Lebanese Army spokesman reported this morning that a 2-hour fight occurred today, at the end of which the Iranian attackers retreated, suffering heavy casualties. [end recording]

LEBANESE ARMY ACCUSED OF KILLING 1,200 PALESTINIANS

TA221223 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Nov 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by military correspondent Ya'aqov Erez and political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] In the course of the Lebanese Army's activities in various parts of Beirut, 1,200 Palestinians have disappeared so far. Military figures in Israel believe that these Palestinians were killed by the Lebanese Army, which operates under the auspices of the U.S., French and Italian multinational forces.

Searches and mopping-up operations have been under way within Palestinian concentrations in West Beirut ever since the IDF left the city and was replaced by the Lebanese Army. Lebanese Army units have so far completed the demolition of 1,200 buildings. As a result, there are some 60,000 displaced Palestinians, some of whom were driven in Lebanese Army vehicles to the Al-Biqa' region and sent beyond the Syrian lines while others were moved to the Tripoli region or found refuge in other parts of Lebanon.

According to authoritative military figures, 1,200 Palestinians have so far disappeared and are believed to have been killed by Lebanese Army soldiers. These activities by the Lebanese Army gave rise to no criticism in the world at large, nor within the Arab world and the Palestinian terrorist organizations themselves, despite the fact that their victims are more numerous than those of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. In the latter, according to the figures submitted by the Red Cross, 721 Palestinians were murdered. The version of the attorney general on behalf of the Lebanese Army is that the number of Palestinians killed in Sabra and Shatila was 328, but his initial contention had been that their number was no higher than 70.

The Lebanese Army has already completed its activities in the Palestinian-inhabited areas, but Palestinians are still occasionally being detained if they are unable to present Lebanese identification cards.

Figures in Israel maintain that these activities by the Lebanese Army are known to the multinational force headquarters in Beirut, and yet no reservations were voiced to the Lebanese Government in this regard.

Ilan Kfir reports:

Israel will submit a document to U.S. mediator Philip Habib, according to which hundreds of Palestinians have recently returned from exile in Tunisia, to Syria, the Al-Biqa' and Beirut, within the framework of their efforts to renew their operational deployment.

Israel will stress to Habib that renewed activities by the PLO and its political and economic institutions, as well as the return of the terrorists to Lebanon, are in flagrant violation of the agreement for the evacuation of the terrorists from West Beirut.

According to information received by Israel, the PLO is attempting to redeploy by supplying its men with Soviet-made arms which it recently received for this very purpose. According to this information, the PLO is also trying to rebuild its political and economic institutions.

The information received by Israel indicates that the PLO leaders have come to the conclusion that they would not be able to operate effectively from their places of exile in Tunisia and elsewhere, in view of the strict limitations imposed on the terrorists by the governments of these countries, which prevent them from conducting operational or other activities from their territory. Israel has learned that the terrorists who were exiled to Tunisia were treated badly and were therefore driven to make every effort to leave the country and return to Lebanon and to Syria.

Philip Habib is expected to arrive in Jerusalem later this week, following his visit to Damascus.

U.S. sources said that Habib had decided to go to Damascus first in order to meet with Begin when the latter resumes his official activities after the 7 days of mourning for his wife's death.

Jerusalem attaches great importance to the talks with Habib, in the face of the political standstill in the negotiations with Lebanon.

Political sources in Jerusalem report a hardening of Lebanon's stand, most probably as a result of Syrian influence.

The evaluation in Jerusalem prior to the talks with Philip Habib is that the negotiations will be lengthy and that the prospects of starting the evacuation of the foreign forces from Lebanon within a few weeks are extremely remote.

Cabinet Withholds Report

TA222015 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] The Cabinet has received a report about the murder of hundreds of Palestinians in Beirut by the Lebanese Army, but it does not want to release the information so as not to harm the negotiations with the Lebanese Government. This has been reported by our correspondent Dan Scemama.

A senior defense source expressed surprise over how the Lebanese Army could harm Palestinians in such a grave fashion under the vigiliant eye of the multinational force soldiers who are in Beirut.

This morning MA'ARIV reported, citing military sources, that since the IDF evacuated Beirut, some 1,200 Palestinian refugees have disappeared from the refugee camps in the Beirut area, and that they may have been murdered.

The report also said that the Lebanese Army destroyed some 1,000 buildings in which Palestinians lived, and that many of the camps' inhabitants were transported on trucks to the area under Syrian control in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'.

BEGIN, HAIG DISCUSS LEBANON WAR, PEACE PROCESS

TA230946 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0850 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] The meeting between Menahem Begin and former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig ended a short while ago in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. The two discussed various subjects, among them the war in Lebanon and the Middle East peace process.

Haig said at the end of the meeting that he thinks that in the present conditions an extraordinary possibility exists for bringing peace and quiet to Lebanon. Haig said that he found the prime minister, as always, clear minded and faithful to securing the peace of Israel and all of the Free World.

Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel notes that the meeting this morning with Haig was the first meeting held by the prime minister on his first day in office after the end of his mourning period.

SHARON MAY MEET U.S. OFFICIALS IN UPCOMING VISIT

TA220747 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Nov 82 p 1

[Report by the diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon will fly to the U.S. this week. The Cabinet yesterday approved his visit -- as required by law. The ministers were told Sharon would appear at an Israel bonds event and another public engagement, in Los Angeles and Las Vegas respectively.

There was no word at the Cabinet of political meetings in Washington. But observers here believe Sharon would not go unless he has been assured of -- or confidently expected to arrange -- meetings with Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz.

Foreign Ministry sources said last night they knew of no such arrangements, but they might have been made through the defence attache's office in Washington.

Some sources in Jerusalem say Sharon has sought to visit Washington several times over recent months, but has not been encouraged to come by the Americans, presumably because of the strained relations between the U.S. and Israel as a result of the seige of Beirut.

GHALI REAFFIRMS COMMITTMENT TO PEACE PROCESS

TA190932 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Nov 82 p 7

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali by David Berstein -- in Cairo "this week"]

[Text] Egypt remains firmly committed to the peace process with Israel, despite the series of severe setbacks and disappointments culminating in last June's invasion of Lebanon, says Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

Talking to THE JERUSALEM POST in a special interview in Cairo this week to mark the fifth anniversary of Anwar as-Sadat's historic visit to Jersualem, Ghali indicated, however, that Egypt's main hopes rested not with "the extremists and the rejectionists" currently in the ascendancy in Israel. Rather, Egypt looked to the "forces of the moderates inside Israel who are weak now but who still believe in peaceful coexistence and dialogue with the Palestinians." These forces, he said, "have been weakened during the past two or three years, but we are playing our game on them."

Ghali was particularly critical of Israel's invasion of Lebanon earlier this year. This, he claimed, had seriously set back the peace process by creating a crisis of confidence in the Arab world just when Egypt had good reason to hope, for a new peace momentum following the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai a few weeks earlier.

"The general perception in the Arab world had been that the Israelis at the last minute would not withdraw from Sinai, would postpone the withdrawal," Ghali said. "So the fact that the withdrawal took place according to the agreement we had signed was, as such, a very important element, and our intention was to use this element, to use this diplomatic success, to obtain a new momentum for the peace process."

The invasion of Lebanon changed all that, however, said Ghali, creating a crisis of confidence relating not only to Israel, "but, what is worse, relating to the peace process as such, to the very concept of dialogue and negotiation."

Egypt was nevertheless doing its best to overcome to new difficulties, convinced that negotiation was the only way forward, Ghali said. But in order to succeed, it was essential "to create a new political atmosphere" that might encourage the Palestinians, the PLO and the other Arab countries to come into the peace process.

"So without going into details," Ghali said, "what ought to be done now is to give more confidence to the moderates who exist inside Israel as well as inside the Arab world and among the Palestinians, and to tell them that there is no other solution but to sit around the negotiating table and talk."

This was the logic behind his call earlier this year to "convert the PLO's military defeat in Lebanon into a political victory," Ghali said, noting that by encouraging the PLO diplomatically, Egypt would be reinforcing the position of the moderates in the organization.

"We believe that the PLO is one of the most important infrastructures of the Palestinians," he said, "and what is important is to obtain a tranformation of the PLO, to reinforce the position of the moderates."

Ghali is nevertheless aware of the very great resistance in Israel, common to government and opposition alike, to any dealings with the PLO. But he is certain that the problem can be overcome. "If the man sitting at the table is a PLO for the PLO and a Palestinian for the Israelis, well why not?" he asked.

"We have done lots of things like that to obtain the peace treaty. The Israelis, for example, spoke of 'Judaea and Samaria,' while we spoke of the 'West Bank and Gaza Strip.' That is the work of diplomacy."

Furthermore, Ghali stressed, "let us be modest in our expectations," while he believes it will be "impossible to move from the peace-keeping stage to the peace-building stage unless we can find a solution for the Palestinians," this can come about gradually, through the adoption of one of the scores of scenarios that have been put forward in the autonomy negotiations.

Ghali does not believe that the autonomy talks can be resumed on the basis of their previous trilateral format, and he notes that other parties -- the Jordanians and some form of Palestinian representation -- are going to have to be brought in.

He appears to be counting heavily on the latest U.S. peace initiative to bring this about, noteing that during the past four or five years, Washington had restricted its active participation mainly to dealing with the first part of the Camp David accords, that deal with Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

President Ronald Reagan's new initiative for the first time addresses American efforts directly to the second part of the Camp David -- that dealing with the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

Ghali is not disheartened by the lack of progress made in the Reagan initiative since it was launched last September, with Israel rejecting it outright and the Palestinians yet to give Jordan a mandate to negotiate on their behalf.

"We are still at the beginning of a new process," he pointed out, noting that "while we are talking only 76 days have elapsed" since the initiative was launched.

Egypt, he said, is taking the long view of the peace process and is not going to be discouraged by setbacks. He views the present Israeli Government's plans for the future of the West Bank as unrealistic for demographic reasons. But more important, Egypt has the patience to wait for the "moderate forces" inside Israel to gain the ascendance.

In the meanwhile, Egypt's policy is to maintian its peace treaty with Israel while continuing to criticize and denounce an Israeli policy "that is incompatible with certain basic principles."

"In spite of the great frustration that nothing has been achieved for the Palestinians and that the situation is getting worse (for them), Ghali concluded, and we still believe very deeply in the importance of a continuing dialogue."

"And we believe that inside Israel, in spite of the apparent victory of the extremists and rejectionists, that the attitudes of the moderates of the Israelis who really believe in peace, will prevail."

OAU CHAIRMAN APPEALS FOR ATTENDANCE AT TRIPOLI SUMMIT

EA201854 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] President Daniel arap Moi today appealed to all heads of state of OAU member states to attend the forthcoming 19th OAU summit in Tripoli, Libya, whether the current session of the Council of Ministers resolves the issue of the Chadian representation or not.

President Moi stated that in view of the recurring problems facing the continent, it is imperative that all invited member states should consider making Tuesday's Tripoli summit a crucial one and should attend to tackle the pending issues.

In a statement released at State House, Nairobi, President Moi said African leaders must have realized by now that power politics, if allowed to penetrate the organization, will permanently wreck the solidarity of Africa.

President Moi announced that he will personally travel to Libya for the summit whether or not the Council of Ministers is unanimous in the preparation of the agenda of the heads of state summit.

AFRICAN LEADERS ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI FOR OAU SUMMIT

LD222252 Tripoli JANA in English 2102 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 6, Nov 22, Jamahiriyah News Agency -- The heads of state and prime ministers of the member countries of the Organization of African Unity continue to arrive in Tripoli to attend the 19th O.A.U. summit conference to start here tomorrow. President Moussa Traore of Mali arrived here this afternoon heading a delegation and was received by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhdafi at Mi'aitiqah airbase. Also present were the members of the General People's Committee, Mali Foreign Minister Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye. O.A.U. Secretary General Mr. Edem Kodjo and several officers in the Libyan Armed Forces.

The prime minister of Cape Verde Pedro Erona Rodrigues Pires, also arrived in Tripoli today at 3:00 p.m. to participate in the 19th African summit conference.

Premier Pires was welcomed at Mi'aitiqah airbase by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, members of the General People's Committee, the secretary general of the, OAU Edem Kodjo, and several Libyan Arab Armed Forces officials.

Among those who also arrived today was the Zimbabwean president, Robert Mugabe, who was welcomed by the revolution's leader at 2:30 p.m. at Mi'aitiqah airbase.

Also present at the reception were the Malian president, Moussa Traore, and Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, members of the General People's Committee, the Zimbabwean foreign minister, Witness Mangwende, the Organization of African Unity's secretary general, Edem Kodjo, and several Libyan Armed Forces officers.

The president of the Central African Republic, Andre Kolingba, arrived in Tripoli at 5:00 p.m. today. Present at his reception at Mi'aitiqah military airbase were Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, the OAU's secretary general, Mr. Edem Kodjo, members of the General People's Committee, the Central African foreign minister, Gervil-Yambala, and several Libyan Arab Armed Forces officers.

The Kenyan president and current chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Mr. Daniel arap Moi arrived in Tripoli at 4:30 p.m. today to participate in the 19th African summit conference due to start tomorrow.

President Moi was welcomed at Mi'aitiqah airbase by the revolution's leader. Also present at the reception were the secretary general of the OAU, Mr Edem Kodjo, and several Libyan Arab Armed Forces officers. Mr Moi made a statement to our correspondent in which he said: "I am deeply touched by the warm reception given me by my friend Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Jamahiriyah's great people". He added: "I am participating with the African leaders in the OAU's meetings and we shall work together for solving some of the problems facing Africa. We the African leaders should feel ashamed of our present reality and should confront and solve all problems so that our continent may achieve its goal...."

President Shehu Shagari of the Nigeran Federal Republic arrived here today at 5:15 p.m. local time to attend the 19th OAU summit conference. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was at Mi'aitiqah airbase to receive the Nigerian president and his delegation. Also present were several members of the Central People's Committee, Mr Edem Kodjo, O.A.U. secretary general, the Nigerian foreign minister and several officers in the armed forces.

President Shagari made a statement to our correspondent in which he touched upon Chad's issue stressing that 11 Chadian factions had agreed in Lagos that the interim government of national union is the legitimate government in Chad and that they are working according to these agreements.

President Shagari added there is a conspiracy against this agreement from inside and outside.

On the expected outcome of the 19th O.A.U. summit, he said: "I hope the meeting will solve African problems and, as African heads of state, we have to maintain the unity of the continent because there are certain sides that would like to see a divided Africa and a disarrayed O.A.U. The organization should foil all these plots as the O.A.U.'s strength lies in its unity".

The president of the People Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso arrived in Tripoli at 6:20 p.m. local time today. President Nguesso was welcomed at Mi'aitiqah airbase by the revolution's leader. Also present were members of the General People's Committee, the secretary general of the OAU, Mr Edem Kodjo, the Congolese foreign minister and several Libyan Arab Armed Forces officers.

In a statement to our correspondent, Sassou-Nguesso said he is certain that the 19th African summit conference will succeed in fulfilling the ambitions of the African peoples including political, economic and cultural freedom, and the solution of all African problems. He added: "We highly appreciate the enormous efforts being exerted by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the maintenance of the OAU's unity and coherence".

President Quett Masire of Botswana and the personal envoy of Malawi president arrived in Tripoli at 7:30 p.m. today on the same plane to participate in the 19th O.A.U. summit conference due tomorrow. Both guests were received by the revolution's leader at Mi'aitiqah airbase, together with the secretary of the General People's Committee for public services; Mr Edem Kodjo, the O.A.U. secretary general, and several officers of the armed forces.

The Tanzanian president, Julius Nyerere, arrived in Tripoli this evening to participate in the 19th African summit conference. The revolutions leader was at Mi'aitiqah airbase to welcome the Tanzanian president. Others at President Nyerere's welcoming were members of the General People's Committee, the Organization of African Unity's secretary general, Edem Kodjo; the Tanzanian foreign minister, Salim Ahmed Salim, and several Libyan Arab Armed Forces officers.

GOUKOUNI MAKES STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL IN TRIPOLI

LD230150 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Excerpts] The presidents and prime ministers of the OAU countries continue to arrive in Tripoli to attend the 19th African summit conference which will open today, Tuesday.

Among those arriving in Tripoli is the head of Chad's Transitional Government of National Unity, Goukouni Oueddi. In a statement to the press the president of Chad, Goukouni Oueddi, said: The Transitional Government of National Unity is the one which represents the Chadian people; it is the government which is recognized by the OAU. It is recognized by the 18th summit conference held in Nairobi. It is the government which is founded on the interests of the Chadian people. As a result of specific circumstances, this government left the capital Ndjamena and is now consolidating its positions inside Chadian soil.

President Goukouni Oueddi added: His mere presence in the capital [reference to Hissein Habre] does not mean he controls the country or that he represents the ambitions of the people. Goukouni Oueddi said the only legitimate government which must represent the ambitions of the Chadian people is the Transitional Government of National Unity. Regarding Hissein Habre in Ndjamena, Oueddi added that he is in a colonialist-world imperialist-made position. He said Hissein Habre and his forces are still killing the Chadian people and that the Chadian people detest Hissein Habre and do not recognize him. Consequently, his government has no competence or legitimacy and he will be expelled from the country by the Chadian people. In conclusion Goukouni Oueddi added: African and world public opinion must shoulder their responsibilities and consolidate the legitimacy of the Transitional Government of National Unity.

HABRE'S DELEGATION READY TO RETURN TO TRIPOLI

AB221338 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Paris, Nov. 22 (AFP) — A member of the Ndjamena Chadian delegation which left the Organisation of African Unity ministerial meeting in Tripoli, today said his delegation is prepared to return to the Libyan capital for tomorrow's OAU summit.

Allam-Mi Ahmad, an adviser to Chadian President Hissein Habre, said here that his delegation's departure from Libya should "in no way be interpreted as a voluntary suspension of Chad's participation at the OAU session."

Last week's ministerial meeting held to prepare the summit stalled over the question of Chad representation. "Moderate" states supported Mr. Habre's delegation, while "progressives" wanted to seat the Libyan-backed "national salvation" government of Goukouni Oueddei installed in northern Chad.

"The Chadian delegation is prepared to return to Tripoli to take its seat if its legitimacy is restored," Mr. Allam-Mi said.

ZAMBIA, MAURITIUS CANCEL TRIP TO OAU SUMMIT

LD221606 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Lusaka, Nov 22. (MAP) — President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia will not attend the Tripoli summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) if the required quorum is not attained.

The Zambian head of state who was due to head for Tripoli this Monday, cancelled his trip following the withdrawal of several countries from the OAU ministerial meeting to protest the move of some countries that prevented the legal authorities of Ndjamena from attending the ministerial session.

The prime minister of Mauritius, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth, also cancelled his trip for the same reasons.

In Niamey, the Niger minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr Daouda Diallo, declared Saturday upon his return from Tripoli that Chad was not under the tutorship of the OAU.

He added that there was no judicial nor political argument justifying the exclusion of the Chadian delegation from the Ministers' Council.

GHANAIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON CHAD DISPUTE

AB211412 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] At the 29th OAU ministerial session in Tripoli, consultations to find a more acceptable formula for Chad's representation has reached a very delicate stage. For some time now, the center of activiity has been at the Grand Hotel where the heads of delegation are staying. Unconfirmed reports are saying that about 10 of the 14 delegations which objected to the request of the 9-member consultative committee and insisted on the seating of Chad have left the Libyan capital.

Ghana's view, however, is that the present problem is not insurmountable. The leader of the delegation, Dr Obed Asamoah, said it is better to stick together than to walk out. He said Africa is faced with decolonization, poor economic growth and other social problems. It is therefore unacceptable to let the Chadian issue prevent the discussion of these matters. Concentration should be on developmental aspects rather than political problems. As regards which of the two Chadian delegations should be seated, Dr Asamoah said representation by one side will not solve the issue. What is essential is to get a government of national unity representing all the factions to avoid further bloodshed. He said the situation is peculiar because even now there are reports of fighting going on there.

ALGERIA

SPA REPORTS FAHD, BENDJEDID, 'ARAFAT MEETING

LD221734 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1558 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Algiers, 22 Nov (SPA) -- A tripartite meeting was held this evening at King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' residence in Algiers. The meeting was among King Fahd, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Algeria.

Further on Meeting

JN230615 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0512 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent 'Abdallah ash-Shihri from Algiers -- live or recorded]

[Text] Despite the complete secrecy shrouding the tripartite Algiers summit meeting between Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, informed sources told our radio that the three leaders' talks centered on the accomplishments and future moves of the Arab seven-member committee that was formed by the Fes summit to explain the Arab peace plan to the capitals of the UN Security Council's member states under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II and Jordanian King Husayn.

The talks also dealt with the issue of the presence of the Palestinian Resistance in the Arab countries. According to these sources, agreement was reached on the need to continue the military training of the Resistance men and to supply them with weapons, giving special attention to the political role of the PLO.

The same sources indicated that the third topic discussed at the tripartite summit meeting was the Iraq-Iran war and the extent of its impact on the region's states, particularly those in the GCC. Agreement was reached to exert joint Algerian-Palestinian efforts with Tehran leaders in order to convince them to agree to negotiations in the presence of an international arbitration commission acceptable to both Iraq and Iran, with the aim of signing a new agreement on the demarcation of borders between the two countries.

FAHD-BENDJEDID TALKS OPEN IN ALGIERS 22 NOV

LD221428 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1344 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Algiers, 22 Nov (SPA) -- Official Saudi-Algerian talks were held this afternoon under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The talks were attended on the Saudi side by the official delegation accompanying the king and the kingdom's ambassador to Morocco, Muhammad Hasan, and on the Algerian side by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the foreign minister and member of the Political Bureau; Lakhdar Ibrahimi, adviser to the presidency; Muhyi ad-Din 'Ametiz, adviser at the presidency; Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy and petrochemical industries; Abdelhamid Brahimi, minister of planning and national development; Salih Qubbi, director of Arab affairs at the Foreign Ministry; and the Algerian ambassador to the kingdom, Houzam Tajini [name as received].

King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz andAlgerian President Chadli Bendjedid had a discussion [word indistinct] starting the official talks.

LIBYA

SOVIET AIR MARSHAL SKORIKOV ARRIVES IN LIBYA

LD221626 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Nov (JANA) -- Marshal of Aviation Skorikov, chief of the Main Staff of the Soviet Air Forces, arrived in Tripoli at noon today for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD201350 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. De Cuellar made a statement to a JANA representative in which he expressed his joy at visiting the Jamahiriyah. He praised the effective role of the Jamahiriyah in various UN agencies.

Meets Government Officals

LD211650 Tripoli JANA in English 1610 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 5, Nov 21, Jamahiriyah News Agency -- The Foreign Liaison Secretary Mr. 'Abd al-Ati al-'Ubaydi this morning conferred with the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. The meeting was also attended by the Jamahiriyah's permanent representative at the United Nations Dr. 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki.

Discussions centred on several world issues, cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and the U.N. and its specialised agencies, the international role of the Non-Aligned Movement and the necessity of the North-South dialogue serving the interests of developing nations.

The U.N. secretary general also expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Jamahiriyah in various U.N. bodies to promote world peace. De Cuellar said the Jamahiriyah's contributions to the U.N.'s specialised agencies have contributed to their smooth functioning in providing humanitarian aid. He said the U.N. and its agencies will try to increase this cooperation in the interests of all peoples. De Cuellar further affirmed the Jamahiriyah's effective role in debating world issues tabled at the U.N. and added that the Jamahiriyah have effectively contributed to the service of mankind.

SUDAN

FIRST GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS LEAVES FOR IRAQ

EA192156 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Excerpts] The first detachment of Sudanese volunteers left Khartoum today for fraternal Iraq to join their brothers in the Iraqi Popular Army. The detachment was seen off by Col (Uthman at-Tahir), chief of the selection committee for volunteers at the volunteering center in Khartoum; Brig Gen (Ismail Sughayyirun), from the operations staff of the People's Armed Forces; the Iraqi Popular Army General Command delegation currently visiting the country; and His Excellency 'Asim al-Ja'fari, Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum.

ETHIOPIA

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CRITICISMS ON AID REJECTED

EA211624 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that the decision adopted by the European Parliament last Thursday on assistance given by the EEC and the situation in the Horn of Africa was a surprise. The accusation by the European Parliament that Ethiopia has continued its aggression against Somalia, that the assistance it receives from the EEC is being used for military purposes, that it continues to violate human rights and that it is a cause of instability in the Horn of Africa is false, the spokesman declared.

He said that Ethiopia has never violated Somalia territory and that Ethiopian troops had never entered Somalia, adding that this has been stated repeatedly by Ethiopia. The spokesman said the fighting in Somalia is a popular rebellion against the treacherous regime of Siad Barre by the oppressed Somali masses. He said it is very saddening that the EEC has baselessly and unjustly accused socialist Ethiopia, which is waging a tireless fight against poverty, starvation and ignorance and the propaganda of the Mogadishu regime.

The spokesman said the European Parliament did not utter a word when the Somalia regime openly violated Socialist Ethiopia's territory in 1976-77, let alone adopt a similar resolution. The spokesman said this fact is even more saddening.

The spokesman rejected the allegation that EEC food assistance is being used by Ethiopian troops and that human rights violations are increasing in Ethiopia.

He said even the EEC has established that Ethiopia is one of the few EEC aid recipients that dispense EEC aid within the country properly. On the contrary, the spokesman said, numerous international charitable organizations and governments have on several occasions revealed that the Somali Government is using the food assistance it receives for Ethiopian refugees that it alleges are in its territory for military purposes, to achieve its expansionist objectives.

On human rights, the spokesman said that the Ethiopian revolution has freed the broad masses from oppression and exploitation and that long-range programs are mapped out for the socioeconomic transformation of the people. The spokesman said the EEC Parliament has regrettably not taken into consideration these facts or the release of 716 political prisoners by the Ethiopian Government last September. The spokesman said that it is Somalia whose expansionist aims threaten stability in the Horn of Africa and which is receiving substantial arms from certain countries to achieve its aims.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS ERITREAN BATTLE SUCCESSES

EA211908 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 1600 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] On 17 November 1982, a Dergue force was ambushed and repulsed near Ala. The force, accompanied by tanks, armored personnel carriers and heavy guns, had moved out of Decamere to capture strategic positions in Ala.

The fierce engagement with the enemy force took place at 0600, in which 50 Dergue soldiers were killed and 85 were wounded. Our fighters also captured 9 soldiers, 25 light weapons, a Brno guns, 2 communications radios and other useful military items. In retaliation Deruge soldiers killed farmer (Kasu Fishaye) in cold blood.

On 13 November our fighters also attacked a Dergue force which moved out of Teramni to (Guhcha) on a reconnaissance mission, forcing it to retreat. The following day the Dergue soldiers, who are used as cannon-fodder, received reinforcements and made a second advance, but were severely beaten at (Gertetet). In these two engagements eight Dergue lorries were also burnt out between (Mendefera) and (Adi Kesemti) and between (Mendefera) and (Shekha Wodi Bisrat), when landmines planted by heroic member of our engineering units exploded.

Members of the people's militia of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front attacked and dealt a severe blow on an enemy force which moved out of Zagher and (Quazen) toward (Digsana), killing 15 Dergue soldiers and wounding over 20 others; 3 Kalashnikov assault rifles and a pistol were captured.

CLANDESTINE ON GOVERNMENT LOSSES IN CLASHES

EA211648 (Clandestine) Voice of Tigre Revolution in Tigrigna to Ethiopia 1345 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] On 16 and 17 November 1982, the heroic fighters of the Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] attacked a two-bridge enemy force drawn from the 7th and 16th Divisions of the enemy army in Tigrai, and repulsed it.

The enemy force moved out of Enda Selasa and Selaklaka to recapture a long-abandoned strategic position between Enda Selasa and Selaklaka, and to harass and intimidate peaceful citizens, accompanied by aircraft, helicopter gunships, tanks and heavy guns. Heroic members of the TPLF militia also took part in the 2-day engagement.

A total of 340 fascist Dergue soldiers were either killed or wounded, 10 heavy guns and a number of assorted useful items were captured.

Although the fascist Dergue marshalled modern weapons and huge armaments, and its aircraft and helicopter gunships heavily bombarded our positions, the cowardly enemy soldiers could not be saved from a shameful defeat.

BRIEFS

SWEDEN, ITALY WAIVE DEBTS -- Sweden and Italy have decided to waive a 51,000,000-birr debt owned by Ethiopia to the two countries. The Swedish Government has waived 23,000,000 birr of the total amount. Italy has waived a debt of about 28,000,000 birr owed to it by Ethiopia. [Excerpts] [Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 18 Nov 82 EA]

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MONGOLIA -- The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry today disclosed that Comrade Ambassador Nesibu Taye, socialist Ethiopia's ambassador to the USSR and COPWE [Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia] Central Committee member, recently presented his credentials to the leader of the People's Republic of Mongolia, Comrade President Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal. [Excerpt] [Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 82 EA]

SOMALIA

REBELLION AMONG SIAD BARRE TROOPS REPORTED

EA222340 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Troops of the Siad Barre regime in Nogal and (Ghel Gudud) regions are reported to be in rebellion. Reports from those regions say that the 35th Battalion of the 5th Regiment, based at (Abud Waq) in (Ghel Gudud) region, with headquarters in Hiran region; and units of the 3d Regiment based in (Darken Geye) village in Nogal region have refused to take orders from the Siad Barre regime and are rebelling.

OPPOSITION FORCES, TROOPS BATTLE IN BALAMBALE

EA222226 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Fighters of the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS [Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia] wing of the Somali opposition forces and troops loyal to the Barre regime are now locked in fighting in Balambale village, east of Galcaio, the regional capital of Mudugh. Reports say that seven enemy military vehicles were destroyed, resulting in heavy loss of life and material. The reports confirm that a number of enemy soldiers have also been captured.

More on Fighting

EA222220 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Reports reaching us from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS [Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia] wing of the Somali opposition forces in the battle zones say that 21 soldiers still loyal to Barre have been killed and many more have been wounded. The reports add that 4 civilians have also been killed and 41 others arrested. The fate of those arrested is unknown.

Fierce fighting is reported to be taking place between the Somali masses and troops of the Siad Barre regime at (Jariiban), (Balay Busle) and Malasle, in the east of Mudugh region.

CHAD

MISKINE RETURNS, DOUBTFUL ABOUT SUMMIT

AB221921 Paris AFP in French 1752 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 22 Nov (AFP) -- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Idriss Miskine, who returned to Ndjamena on Monday from Tripoli, said the he is pessimistic about the holding of the 19th OAU summit, scheduled to be held from 23 to 26 November in Tripoli.

Mr Miskine, who was not able to be present at the OAU ministerial conference -- which was never able to begin its work of preparing the schedule for the summit because of the problem of Chadian representation -- was received on Monday afternoon for over an hour by President Hissene Habre to whom he gave a rundown of the "situation in the Libyan capital."

In an interview he granted to the press after his talks with President Habre, the chief of Chadian diplomacy stated that he does not think the summit can be held in the Libyan capital. "Everything points toward failure in Tripoli," Mr Miskine said.

In the view of the Chadian minister, who affirms that he does not wish the "death of the OAU," only an extraordinary summit of the organization, a summit that would gather together "wise Africa," can enable the OAU to overcome its present impasse. He stressed that Chad has many friends in the OAU and that Ndjamena can count on these friends to see that its rights are respected.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON OAU REPRESENTATION ISSUE

AB221521 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Idriss Miskine in Tripoli -- date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Miskine] There is no provision in the OAU Charter that forbids Chad's representation in this organization. We have come here at the official invitation of the OAU. It is therefore clear that we should be allowed to participate in the conference. We are (?puzzled) by the refusal of the host country, Libya, to allow us to have access to the conference hall because of unacknowledgeable reasons which are well known to everyone. There should be no problem concerning the representation of Chad. There is no provision in the OAU's Charter concerning representation. We have come here with the mandate of a normal and legal authority and we must represent Chad.

[Question] It has been said that your government has usurped power in Ndjamena. How do you explain this?

[Answer] There are not many ways to achieving power. Power can be achieved in only two ways: through an election or a coup d'etat. No country can say today that the present government has usurped anything whatsoever. On the contrary, the defunct government had usurped power by bringing in foreign troops which enables it to establish itself. We have now taken power by the will of the people and the determination of our vanguard, the FAN.

[Question] Mr Minister, Libya is now occupying quite a large part of your territory, that is the Aouzou Strip. Do you believe the Libyan authorities intend to evacuate this territory?

[Answer] As you know, since our arrival in Ndjamena on 7 June we have made direct and indirect official contacts with the Libyan authorities in order to find a negotiated solution to our differences, but unfortunately they have not responded to our call and various contacts up to the present despite Articles 4 and 5 of the charter.

[Question] Mr Minister, President Hissein Habre once declared that Chad did not need to negotiate with Libya and that the territory belongs to Chad. What is the real position? Do you confirm President Hissein Habre's stand?

[Answer] I do not think Comrade President Hissein Habre ever said that. I know we are claiming that part of our country because it was bequeathed to us by the colonial power. It forms an integral part of our territory. We are therefore claiming it. But Libya is [words indistinct]. This being the case, there can only be a negotiated solution.

'OBSERVERS' FEAR FUTURE HOSTILITIES WITH LIBYA

AB210919 Paris AFP in French 1528 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Nov (AFP) -- There is increasing concern in Ndjamena, where the prospect of the resumption of hostilities with Libya, "with Goukouni Oueddei replaced by a third party" is being taken more and more seriously.

Observers in Ndjamena believe that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, head of the Libyan revolution, must definitely have "serious designs on Chad if he has taken the risk of letting the 19th OAU summit in Tripoli fail, thereby jeopardizing his chances of becoming the chairman of the all-African organization, simply because of the question of Chad's representation."

For several days now, the two official Chadian news organs, the Chadian News Agency (ATP) and Radio Chad, have greatly helped to make public opinion aware of the "danger of Al-Qadhdhafi's policy" on Chad.

According to official sources in Ndjamena, "Libyan military activities" are said to have been observed in northern Chad. Although no one seems to know whether there have been direct clashes between Libyan and Chadian forces, it is felt in Ndjamena that if a negotiated solution is not found, the Chadian authorities will make it clear that they "are determined to have their rights respected," even at the risk of armed confrontation with Libya.

It is in this atmosphere that the population of Ndjamena, instead of wondering about former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei's chances of regaining power which he lost 6 months ago, are wondering what the return of the Transitional National Union Government could offer since, according to many inhabitants of the capital, "during its 3 years in power, it proved to be completely incompetent at all levels."

By showing his "desire" to seat the "Provisional Government of National Salvation" created by Goukouni Oueddei, rather than Hissein Habre's government at the Tripoli meeting, Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi shows that all the charges made by Mr Habre against his "expansionist" policy are justified, observers in Ndjamena note.

*The current Cha*dian president has never concealed his concern about the policy of the Libyan strongman on Chad, accusing him of also being behind the formation of that "provisional government" in Barbai (northern Chad); "whether it is the formation of a government or the mounting of armies at various places, the problem remains the occupation of Chad by Libya," Mr Habre said recently.

However, in deciding to attend the OAU ministerial meeting on Tripoli, the Chadian authorities probably expected the obstacles the host country placed in its way.

Idriss Miskine, the foreign minister, made no secret of this: We know very well that the "puppet government' of Mr Goukouni will be in Tripoli, he stressed, adding that Chad, an OAU member country, intended to take its "rightful" place.

Denouncing Libyan "hegemony" the Chadian Government, strengthened by the support given Mr Habre during the last French-African summit in Kinshasa, now seems to be seeking OAU support before envisaging a "solution" to the boundary dispute with Libya.

Libya, official circles in Ndjamena recall, has been occupying and exploiting the Aouzou Strip (140,000 square km in northern Chad) which has important mineral resources, for 10 years now.

The outcome of the current OAU meeting will therefore be "decisive" for future Tripoli-Ndjamena relations, observers note.

President Habre, it is observed, indicated recently that contacts were established with a view to finding "a reasonable solution" to the dispute, even though not "much" progress has been made.

ANTI-LIBYAN DEMONSTRATION IN NDJAMENA 22 NOV

AB231021 Paris AFP in French 0943 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 23 Nov (AFP) — Several thousand people, mostly women, demonstrated yesterday at the Independence Square against "Libya's policy in Chad."

To cries of "down with Al-Qadhdhafi" and carrying placards which read "Al-Qadhdhafi get out of Chad" or "Chad is neither Libya's extension nor its vital space," the demonstators marched peacefully under the watchful eye of law enforcement officers.

The demonstrators then went on to read a motion of protest against Tripoli's policy in Chad following the controversy which has arisen over Chad's representation at the 19th OAU summit scheduled to open this afternoon in Tripoli.

Libya does not have any diplomatic mission in Chad since it closed down its embassy after the arrival of Hissein Habre's FAN, which overthrew Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government in June.

GABON

MINISTER RETURNS FROM TRIPOLI, COMMENTS

AB221343 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1215 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Martin Bongo, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Libreville from Tripoli yesterday. On his arrival, he explained why Gabon — like 14 other countries — left the OAU ministerial council meeting.

[Begin Bongo recording] Our organization is facing difficulties. Last August in the same city of Tripoli, we had problems concerning the participation of the SDAR which has voluntarily abstained from taking part in the present session in accordance with the wishes of all. Now the problem seems to have been created by the host country. As you know, it is a question of respect for the principles of our organization.

It is true that like some other delegations, the Republic of Gabon or, rather, the Gabonese delegation, left the meeting or suspended its participation in the present session because of a problem created out of nothing. Chad is the main cause of this problem. As you know, Chad is a member, and moreover, a founding member of the OAU. Before every meeting of the organization, its Secretariat invites the member countries to attend. As a founding member, Chad received an invitation from the Secretariat [words indistinct].

Before our arrival in Tripoli — I wish to point out that we arrived after the opening session — the problem had already been created: The host country absolutely wanted the delegation of the president of the defunct Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] to attend the meeting. As you know, the GUNT is no more. President Hissein Habre has arrived in Ndjamena and is now in power. The invitation of the OAU Secretariat was addressed to the capital of Chad, that is Ndjamena. Hissein Habre's men therefore arrived in Tripoli to take part in the Ministerial Council meeting. [end recording]

BONGO RECEIVES CHADIAN MINISTER, OTHERS

AB230740 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] The head of state, El Hadj Omar Bongo, yesterday granted three audiences at the Renovation Palace. The first was Naham Oudalbaye, Chadian minister of justice and keeper of the seals, who came to deliver a message from Hissein Habre, Chadian head of state, to President Bongo. The message concerned the issue of Chadian representation in Tripoli.

The president also received in audience the French ambassador to Gabon, Pierre Dabezies, who came to present to the head of state the new head of the mission of cooperation. He replaces [name indistinct], who has been given another post.

The third person to be received was Lt Col Christopher, Grelombe, CAR minister in charge of the General Secretariat for Information, who came to deliver a message from the CAR leader, Gen Andre Kolingba.

GHANA

ACCRA RADIO: LEADERS MUST HOLD OAU SUMMIT

AB222026 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] It seems the end of one crisis in the OAU marks the beginning of another. Now that the crisis over the status and participation of the SDAR in the organization's summit is over with the voluntary withdrawal of the Polisario Front's delegation, the OAU has another thorny problem to deal with. This time, it is the issue of deciding which of the two delegations, both claiming to be representing Chad, should take that country's seat at the OAU meeting in Tripoli, Libya. At the Ministerial Council meeting last week, 14 delegations objected to a consultative committee's recommendation that Chad's seat be left empty -- in fact they walked out.

The issue of Chad's representation has now been left to the heads of state to settle before the OAU summit takes off tomorrow. The assistant secretary general of the organization, Dr Peter Onu, is optimistic that the heads of state will succeed where the Council of Ministers failed. Looking closely at the many problems facing the African continent as a whole and the agenda before the OAU meeting, the issue of Chad's representation is hardly one over which African countries should refuse to meet and carry on important discussions.

A position, such as that taken by the 14 countries which walked out of the Ministerial Council meeting, only gives credence to the view that another excuse is being cooked up to prevent this year's OAU summit from taking place in Libya. This is what some world powers want. However, African leaders ought to be able to further their common interests.

As the leader of Ghana's delegation to the meeting in Tripoli, Dr Obed Asamoah, said: Africa is faced with decolonization, poor economic growth and other social problems. It is therefore unacceptable to let the Chadian issue prevent the discussion of these matters. It is to be taken for granted that all African countries want to see the continent liberated from colonial domination and real oppression, and to ensure the all-round development of our countries and peoples. These are the reasons for which the OAU was formed and these reasons still hold good.

In reality, the neocolonial underdevelopment of most African countries should be a reason for strengthening the pan-African body and extending its works. The rampant walkouts from OAU meetings and discussions in the work of the organization are not in the interest of the African peoples. There are more things which should unite African peoples and nations than those which breed division. African leaders should seek for those common things which unite our peoples in a principled way rather than hanging on to the destructive elements. As the African heads of state assemble in Tripoli, the African peoples in the outside world are watching to see if our leaders will be able to sink their differences and work for the unity and progress of the African continent. The real interests of Africa demand an avoidance of the kind of fiasco that the August summit of the OAU ran into. African leaders must rise to the occasion.

CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF RESIGNS FROM PNDC

AB231327 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Accra, Nov 23 (AFP) -- Ghana's chief of defence staff, Brigadier Joseph Nunoo-Mensah, has resigned from the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) issuing a stern criticism of the regime of Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings.

In his resignation letter released to the media here yesterday, Brig. Nunoo-Mensah said: "We started off by promising our people a political, social and economic order which would create social justice, political stability and bring about an improvement in the standard of living of workers in particular and the broad masses of our people."

"If we are honest with ourselves, we will be the first to admit that the going has been tough and chaotic and any hope of bringing about an improvement in the standard of living of our people remains very doubtful," the letter continued.

Brig. Nunoo-Mensah attributed the situation to what he described as bad and negative policies, "forced on us by a few negative-minded people who do not have the true interest of our people at heart but who are dominating the entire political situation and influencing events."

He said that no one is clear as to who is governing Ghana today as PNDC decisions are variously discarded "or varied by anybody in the hierarchy."

He also warned that Ghanaian troops are dissatisfied presently because their call for a way to air their grievances had met with no response from the PNDC, and that arms are being imported into the country without official knowledge.

IVORY COAST

AKE EXPLAINS DECISION TO LEAVE OAU SESSION

AB220937 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 22 Nov 82 p 2

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Simeon Ake yesterday returned from Tripoli where he led the Ivorian delegation to the 39th OAU Ministerial Council session.

On his arrival, the minister told the press the reasons for the withdrawal of the Ivorian delegation from the Tripoli meeting.

"The ministerial council," he said, "once again wanted to violate a fundamental principle of our organization. As you know, the OAU cannot choose the leaders of any member country. It is for the people to do that. The OAU cannot even question the legitimacy of the representation of governments of member states.

"On our arrival in Tripoli, we were surprised to see that the host country and some of its friends wanted to accept the Transitional National Union Government led by Goukouni Oueddei the Chad's representative under the pretext that it constituted the legitimate government of Chad, and that it was the government which was recognized by the OAU.

"We, the Ivory Coast and some friendly countries, made it known that we had to strictly apply the rules on the effectiveness of power, that is, admit into the Ministerial Council the delegation which received the official invitation from the OAU Executive Secretariat to attend the Tripoli conference, which is the government which controls and exercises authority in Chad.

"We therefore asked our friends for the application of the organization's internal regulations, that is, for the admission of the delegation which came from Ndjamena; and that if the delegations contested its power, then the verification committee could meet to examine the power of this delegation and to report to the council meeting. Our friends did not accept this procedure. They felt that once the OAU had sent forces to Chad, and that a committee of heads of state had been set up to find a solution to the Chadian problem, then the accreditation of a Chadian delegation could be done only by the heads of state summit and that consequently the Ministerial Council could not accept any Chadian delegation into it. We pointed out that this was contrary to the internal regulations which are part of the laws, rules and procedures of the OAU.

"We also refused the 'empty seat' solution which was proposed. Efforts were made by everyone. I and my friends were totally ready and with an open mind to look for a solution based on a scrupulous respect for the rules that govern the Ministerial Council. We tried everything. We even met the Libyan prime minister at his request. He advised us to accept the 'empty seat' solution. There was therefore total disagreement between the two groups. To end this masquerade we decided to withdraw from the Ministerial Council meeting. A last attempt at conciliation was made on Friday.

"In fact a nine-member counciliatory committee was set up which proposed to us a compromise which in fact was not one because it proposed the 'empty seat' solution since it asked Chad to declare voluntarily that it would not participate in the Ministerial Council meetings, that is, the council decided to tell Chad, a founding member of the OAU, that it would not attend. If the Government of Chad, on its own initiative like Sudan, Egypt and Somalia, for personal reasons decides not to go to Tripoli, that will be understood. But for the Ministerial Council to ask Chad to do this is unacceptable and unworthy of the OAU.

"It is under these conditions that after informing our respective heads of state, we and our friends have decided to return home. As Such, nine delegations including that of the Ivory Coast left Tripoli on Saturday. Six others were to leave the Libyan capital on Sunday."

LIBERIA

DOE REINSTATES SUSPENDED PRC MEMBERS

AB221614 Lagos NAN in English 1521 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Abidjan, Nov. 22 (NAN) -- Three former members of Liberia's ruling Peoples Redemption Council, (PRC), suspended or dismissed from government in the last one year have been reinstated, a government statement said in Monrovia today.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent in Abidjan reported that those pardoned included Mr. Stanley Tarwo, suspended on June 12 for beating up a school principal in Monrovia, and Capt. Jerry Gbarn, expelled from the PRC for beating up a medical officer at the John F. Kennedy hospital, also in Monrovia.

The other reinstated member is Col. Larry Borteh, who was suspended from the PRC on May 27 for "repeated misrepresentation he made to the head of state on national issues".

The statement added that the decision to reabsorb the three men was based on Commander Samuel Doe's belief that they had adequately paid for their misdemeanour.

NIGER

DIALLO STATEMENT ON OAU DISPUTE ON CHAD

AB221005 Paris AFP in French 0844 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Niamey, 22 Nov (AFP) -- Chad is not under OAU trusteeship, Daouda Diallo, the Niger minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, said on returning to Niamey from Tripoli Saturday [20 November].

In a statement to the national press, which appeared today in the daily LE SAHEL, Mr Diallo, who had left the 39th OAU ministerial session following his country's decision to suspend its participation, added: "The OAU's intervention in Chad at the request of the legal authorities at the time, does not give it any right to chose a government for the Chadian people."

Furthermore, Mr Diallo considered that "the Transitional National Union Government no longer exists. Its own leaders are the ones who destroyed it."

"Why should the Chadian delegation not be allowed to sit on the Council of Ministers? There is no legal argument or political argument to justify such a decision," the Niger minister said. "(Chad's) membership is not challenged by anyone and neither should its representation be challenged in any way," he added.

NIGERIA

NAN FEATURE ON GUARDING AGAINST RELIGIOUS RIOTS

AB191048 Lagos NAN in English 0950 GMT 19 Nov 82

[NAN feature: "Guarding Against Religious Riots in Nigeria," by Daniya Mawuye]

[Text] All has now quieted down after the disturbances caused by religious fanatics in the northern part of Nigeria. Many people were left dead or injured, with a number of houses burned during the period.

Four of the burned houses in Kaduna are at the very outskirts of Rigasa village. They are built facing bushwards towards a thick marshy valley jungle. This was the hideout of the religious fanatics. When they noticed the police they simply dashed into the jungle, from where they started shooting arrows. One surprising discovery was that they used pigeons for communication. The police shot dead two of the pigeons.

When the Kaduna state governor, Alhaji Abba Musa, visited [words indistinct]. "But all the seven leaders of the fanatics have escaped into the bush. They will strike again in the future unless they are caught."

Four days after the riot the district head could not tell owners of the houses in his village used by the fanatics. Three days later he was arrested for harboring in his house "persons suspected to be members of the fanatics." When his house was searched seven suspects were found. Also found were two photo-graphs of the late Maitatsine and a police whistle. He was charged to court and released on bail.

The fanatics arrested during the riots in the country were generally charged with "unlawful assembly and disturbance of public peace." This could be considered too flimsy for people who were out on a war to kill, and did kill or helped in killing innocent people and law enforcement agents. It is a similar charge that is made for demonstrating students who never use weapons and never kill.

The change to civilian administration in Nigeria came, and with it came political violence. Incidents abound of interparty and intraparty clashes which always leave many dead or injured and a lot of [words indistinct] claiming the lives of many victims, and there was the reckless shooting of innocent people and students by police. To add to all these the intermittent religious disturbances could make Nigeria an unreliable and high-risk democracy.

After the first major religious disturbances which occurred in Kano in December 1980, the Federal Government set up the Aniagolu tribunal. At the end of its findings it gave some recommendations which would help avoid future riots. How far have they been implemented? Certainly not much has been done.

Among other things, the tribunal recommended the screening and testing of "mallams" for "intellectuability, good conduct and reputation." This has not started up till now, except in a few states like Borno and Sokoto where clearance and licensing of preachers has started.

In other states many people including Maitatsine followers preach without clearance, especially at night, without anyone questioning them, thereby gathering supporters illegally. It was partly to enforce the regulation in Maiduguri that led to the riots. Had the Bulunkutu fanatics not been discovered by the police at that time, two or more years later it would have been worse than that of Kano when more than 4,000 people were killed.

In some villages and the outskirts of major towns one could still hear the abusive terms "infidels," "non-Islamic," and "pagans" being used. No one to stop them as the tribunal recommended. Who will even stop such preachers and their disciples from carrying hidden knives? The nation is always told the police is short of manpower.

Local and traditional authorities are to be actively involved in dealing with the problems for successful results. The tribunal said there should be a forum for exchanging views on controversial matters with an emir or chief iman as chairman.

The "kala-kato" (followers of Maitatsine) have since denounced the Prophet Mohammed and declared their leader a prophet. For Muslims, anyone who does that is not a Muslim. Then the question is: Would the other Muslims readily sit at the same table with them to exchange views?

One problem which the tribunal also noted is the juveniles roaming about in urban centers in the northern states. Some still belong to the "Almajiri" system (?cult). Others have since cut off from their "mallams."

The juveniles, half-educated in the teachings of the Koran, serve as a "reservoir of army" to be used by any disgruntled "mallam" to settle his grievances against his "enemies."

The idea of the tribunal for the setting up of light industries and "labor intensive occupational projects" in the rural areas to help in absorbing such young boys is a good one. But this is a uphill solution, which could only be long-term.

Since the "Jama'atu Nasril Islam" [JNI] does not approve of the members of the Muslim Students Society [MSS] rioting and burning churches, then the suggestion would be for it to find a means of checking their activities immediately. The JNI could keep the officials of the MSS in every state in the north under surveilance. It could monitor their meetings and activities. Had the JNI been doing that already it would have been able to (?know about) the plan to destroy the foundation of the churches near the mosque in Kano, which led to the destruction of other churches. The police and NSO [National Security Organization] from now would have to watch closely MSS activities in the northern states and "mallams" who prefer to preach at night or at corners and other obscured areas [words indistinct].

ANGOLA

ENVOY TO PORTUGAL VIEWS RELATIONS WITH U.S.

AB221029 Luanda ANGOP in French 0905 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Lisbon, 22 Nov (ANGOP) -- "We do not have an embassy in the United States because that country has not recognized the People's Republic of Angola," Franca van Dunem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Angola in Portugal, said last Friday in an interview with the weekly O TEMPO.

Van Dunem stressed Angola's foreign policy principle of diversifying diplomatic relations as much as possible.

"Our desire to maintain diplomatic relations with all countries who respect our sovereignty and the principle of noninterference in internal affairs, bearing in mind mutual interests, is laid down in our Constitution," he said.

In this context, the diplomat spoke of the political maturity and the tolerant spirit of the Angolan people in the past as in the present. "It is true," he added, "that as Einstein said, it is easier to destroy an atom than to destroy a preconception, but the Angolan people have an enormous capacity for forgiveness.

Speaking on the Namibian issue and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola, a pretext used by the United States to complicate and delay the independence of Namibia, the ambassador wondered whether Angola was the only country with foreign troops on its territory.

Van Dunem said in this connection, "I do not understand how a country like the United States which fought against General Lee's troops because it believed in the principle of territorial integrity today denies Angola the same right."

The Angolan diplomat in Lisbon wondered if "what is good for the Americans is probably not good for the Angolans."

Regarding cooperation between Angola and Portugal, "the Angolans and the Portuguese share the same views" which immediately renders "cooperation between Angola and Portugal promising," Van Dunem said.

The Angolan diplomat further said he sincerely believes that, "The Portuguese people are a good people who know how to make sacrifices and who, because of their ability to adapt, can help us a great deal.

"Portugal, which already controls advanced technology" would be unwise not to take advantage of the excellent facilities it has in this field to cooperate with Angola," he concluded.

DEFENSE MINISTRY ANNOUNCES CASUALTIES IN RSA RAID

AB221145 Luanda ANGOP in French 1100 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Luanda, 22 Nov (ANGOP) -- An Angolan Defense Ministry spokesman announced on Saturday that three civilians were killed, five others were wounded and considerable material damage was caused as a result of last Thursday's South African Air Force bombing raid on Chicusse, situated 20 km from Cahama.

The same source indicated that this raid was carried out by five "Impala MK-2" planes from the Namibian territory illegally occupied by South Africa.

The source also recalled that 15 days ago, planes of the same type bombed Angolan Army positions in the Cahama District but did not cause any injuries.

COMMENTARY SCORES U.S. POLICY ON NAMIBIA

MB221606 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0445 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Commentary for the armed forces]

[Text] [Intercepted in progress] -- The peoples of our continent have already understood that such a policy of blackmail and intimidation will not change anything. In the specific case of southern Africa, imperialism plays all its cards in order to hinder the decolonization of Namibia, which is illegally occupied by imperialism's watchdog -- Pretoria's racist regime.

Through its spearhead -- racist South Africa -- the United States puts into practice all sorts of maneuvers in an attempt to keep Namibia from attaining true independence and to resolve the crisis at its own convenience. The existing collaboration in various fields between the United States and racist South Africa is proof of the Reagan administration's designs on and ambitious appetite for the Namibian territory and the People's Republic of Angola. If not, let us see.

A State Department document published on 7 February 1981 clearly explains President Reagan's strategy for Namibia. From reading it, one understands that Washington links the solution of the Namibian problem to the incorporation into the revolutionary Government of the People's Republic of Angola, traitors to the Angolan people led by renegade and puppet Jonas Savimbi, who acts as a local political boss for the imperialists.

In the middle of April, a delegation of the so-called contact group visited Namibia, South Africa and the People's Republic of Angola, where it held talks with some of these countries' leaders. Making use of the so-called process for the free expression of the Namibian people's wishes, the contact group wanted to ignore the UN resolution, which recognizes SWAPO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Namibia, and to ensure the penetration of lackeys and puppets into the organs of power of an independent Namibia. This was rejected by the OAU because such a process goes against Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council.

Both the contact group and the South African authorities have already realized that should the Namibian problem be solved in strict conformity with the UN resolution, then SWAPO would obtain a total and incontestable victory in the elections. In view of this, Pretoria's racists and their bosses do all they can to prevent SWAPO from assuming power.

MAURITIUS

PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT ATTEND OAU SUMMIT

AB221111 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Port Louis, Nov 22 (AFP) -- Maruitian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth has decided not to attend the Organisation of African Unity summit in Tripoli scheduled to start tomorrow.

Official sources said his decision was due to the current confusion within the OAU over Chadian representation at the summit.

Foreign Minister Jean-Claude de l'Estrac, who is actually in Tripoli, has been told to represent Mauritius at the summit, if it takes place.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL, TANZANIA'S KIMARIO SIGN AGREEMENT

MB191330 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] In Maputo yesterday, Marshal Samora Machel, president of Frelimo and the republic, met with Brig Gen Muhiddin Kimario, minister of home affairs of Tanzania. The Tanzanian minister, who returned home yesterday, held talks with his Mozambican counterpart, Mariano Matsinhe, which led to the signing of a cooperation agreement relating to police matters.

During his visit to Mozambique, Minister Kimario contacted important economic establishments in Maputo and Beira.

Joint Communique Cited

EA192320 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Mozambique and Tanzania have reiterated their determination to fight to attain the objectives of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. This is contained in a Mozambique-Tanzania joint communique issued in Maputo today within the framework of the visit by the Tanzanian minister for home affairs, Brig Gen Muhiddin Kimario.

According to the same communique, in the talks the two delegations noted with satisfaction the [word indistinct] of their cadres in the political, military and police fields and the intensification of cooperation in various other fields.

Mozambique and Tanzania noted with great concern the intensification of imperialist belligerence in the region as manifested by the continued acts of subversion and destabilization perpetrated by the racist South African regime against the frontline states. In this context, the two countries denounced and condemned the acts carried out by armed gangsters in the pay of imperialism.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO COMMENTARY CRITICIZES BUSH'S AFRICAN TOUR

EA191146 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 18 Nov 82

[SWAPO program]

[Text] We comment on George Bush and the tension in southern Africa. The UNGA's decolonization committee and the Assembly itself have so far adopted a series of resolutions concerning South Africa and Namibia. These resolutions deal with various aspects of foreign assistance being rendered by Western imperialist countries to the racist regime of South Africa in violation of the decisions of the international community.

The deliberations coincided with the observance of an international week of action against transnational corporations in colonial and dependent territories. The recent debate and decisions adopted by the General Assembly came on the eve of the summit conference of the Organization of African Unity. It is not (?accidental) that the vice president of the Reagan regime, George Bush, is on a seven-nation African tour, when the Council of Ministers of the OAU is meeting in Tripoli to prepare for the OAU summit conference.

George Bush's tour, according to Washington officials, is to discuss the question of Namibia's independence. Before leaving Washington, the vice president of the Reagan cowboy regime, George Bush, told reporters that a Namibian solution would be impossible unless the limited contingent of Cuban internationalists is withdrawn from Angola, part of whose territory continues to be forcibly occupied by the terrorist regime of South Africa with the full blessing and (?devices) of the Reagan-Bush regime.

George Bush's mission in Africa has become crystal clear. The mission is two-fold.

His first aim is to create confusion, chaos and forceful division within the OAU before the summit conference reconvenes. His second prestigious attempt is to exert pressure on the frontline states to follow the dictates of Washington. The two-fold purpose became too obvious during George Bush's talks in Zimbabwe with the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, who correctly pointed out that there can be no connection between Namibian independence and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

Comrade Mugabe told the confused American vice president that Cuban internationalists are protecting Angola from terrorist South Africa attacks and that the racist regime is colonizing Namibia in total defiance of the international community. The differences in the position of the Reagan regime and the frontline states are evidently irreconcilable, because the frontline states refuse to compromise their principled stand on the Namibian issue either for favors or under pressure.

The Reagan regime's new offensive in Africa is designed to destabilize Africa and thereby undermine African unity which the imperialists and their racist (?puppets) have failed to do.

The Washington regime is aware of the stand taken by the majority of the heads of state or government in Tripoli last August. Their joint declaration totally rejects the Reagan regime and racist South African maneuvers to link the presence of Cuban forces in Angola and the decolonization process of Namibia and further affirms that the presence of Cuban forces in Angola is a sovereign right of the Angolan Government. The authors of this declaration included all neighbors of the frontline states.

It seems that the cowboy regime in Washington is totally unaware of the purpose and aspirations of African leaders who have condemned time and again Western imperialist countries, especially the United States, for their continued nuclear and economic collaboration with the racist, terrorist regime of South Africa. If the Reagan-Bush regime in Washington expects African leaders to reverse their stand with regard to the independence of Namibia, then the cowboy regime of Ronald Reagan is fooling itself and no one else.

George Bush's current tour of some African countries is solely aimed at whipping up tension in southern Africa on the eve of the OAU summit. Such tension already exists and in fact is being escalated by fresh aggression against the People's Republic of Angola by the terrorist South African fascist regime which is the last tool of imperialism on the African Continent.

The racist regime of Pretoria, in connivance with the mercenary, exploiting regime of Ronald Reagan is today preparing militarily to launch an all-out military offensive against Angola and other frontline states. It is time for the imperialists to be realistic and stop playing with the burning fire.

Who is George Bush on the Namibian political arena to suggest to us that there can be no independence of our beloved motherland unless Angola renounces its military arrangements and agreements with the Republic of Cuba? If George Bush has no job other than causing confusion, chaos and pandemonium, it would be advisable for him to return home and sip his champagne. His regime shares full responsibility for the prevailing tension in southern Africa. How can we expect George Bush, Chester Crocker or Ronald Reagan to propose anything sensible on the Namibian independence issue when the reign of racism, unemployment and exploitation is the order of the day in the United States.

Washington should be told once and for all time to stop its evil tactics of trying to export its rotten ideas to southern Africa. A question to be asked here is: How is Washington today solving the Middle East situation where it plays the role of the main intermediary? Is Africa going to sit idle until the Middle East explosive situation is exported in full swing by the Washington imperialists to the southern tip of our continent? To do so is to commit national and continental suicide.

We hail the stand of our African leaders as regards the Reagan regime's plan of linking Namibian independence with the Cuban presence in Angola. Just recently the Reagan cowboy regime exerted pressure on the IMF to grant some cash to the terrorist regime for the two regimes' military strategy in southern Africa. When Angola's economic infrastructure is being damaged by both South African and American mercenaries, the Washington regime turned to pay a deaf ear to the problems facing that young republic. Angola's sympathizers can never be obstacles to the independence of Namibia. This should be borne in mind by George Bush and his colleague Ronald Reagan.

Our clarion call for the year 1982 is everything and every effort for the struggle. All for final victory. Independence or death. SWAPO will win and Namibia will be free, concludes our today's commentary which was on George Bush and the tension in southern Africa.

PRIME MINISTER BOTHA ARRIVES FOR INTERIM TALKS

MB191132 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and his party have arrived in Windhoek for talks on an interim government for South-West Africa. The prime minister is accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha; the minister of defense, General Malan; and the South African ambassador to the United States, Dr Brand Fourie.

Today and tomorrow the prime minister will have talks with the administrator-general of South-West Africa, Mr Hough, the Council of Ministers and members of the representative authorities. A statement will be issued tomorrow on how the territory will be governed until independence.

The term of office of the National Assembly expires at the weekend. The term may be extended, or another form of interim government may be announced.

SCHRUYWER: ASSEMBLY MAY NOT RETAIN PRESENT FORM

MB191648 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] The president of the National Assembly of the South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Johannes Schruywer, says it is not certain that the assembly will continue to exist in its present form.

Addressing the final sitting of the assembly in Windhoek, Mr Schruywer said a foundation for democracy had been laid in the latest session of the body. The present session of the National Assembly of South-West Africa/Namibia expires on Sunday.

Earlier, the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, said consideration would have to be given to a more representative and effective interim form of government for the territory.

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: BUSH REITERATES U.S. AFRICAN POLICY

MB221719 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Unattributed commentary: "The Restatement of American Policy by Mr Bush"]

[Text] American Vice President Bush, speaking in Nairobi of a new United States partnership with Africa, has put American policy towards Africa, and southern Africa in particular, into perspective.

The United States regards southern Africa -- in the words of Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker -- as a region of unquestioned importance to American and Western economic and strategic interests. The United States under President Reagan is alive to the global threat of the Soviet Union, and to the importance of Africa, and southern Africa, therefore, as an arena of competition between the superpowers. The President himself, and his advisors, are very much aware of Soviet operations in the Third World. And, in this respect, his foreign policy directions have been outlined: to contain the expansion of the Soviet Union, and to negotiate with the Soviets from a position of strength.

Mr Bush's Nairobi address should be viewed against this backdrop. He said the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola is a parallel framework with South Africa's departure from Namibia -- the key to a settlement we all desire. Explaining that his government was not ashamed to declare its interests in the withdrawal of Cuban forces, Mr Bush said their introduction 7 years ago tore the fabric of reciprocal restraint between the United States and the Soviet Union in the developing world. The United States accuses the Soviet Union of using Cuban troops as proxies.

Those, then, are Mr Bush's sentiments. By insisting on a Cuban linkage to a South-West African/Namibian solution, Mr Bush merely emphasizes United States' foreign policy: that America is alive to the global threat of the Soviet Union, and to the importance of Africa as an arena of competition between the superpowers. In other words, under Mr Reagan the United States is not going to allow the Soviet Union and its proxies to march through Africa at their will.